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Political Law Resources:

[Political Law Briefing Blog](#)

**Venable's Government Affairs
Compliance Tune-Up
Webinar [Audio](#) and [Slides](#)**

**[2013-2014 Federal Contribution
Limits](#)**

Venable attorneys regularly publish commentary and analysis on our blog, [Political Law Briefing](#). For your convenience, we have assembled our most popular blog posts from April 2014.

In Case You Missed It: Venable's Presentation on Election-Year Advocacy and Nonprofit Organizations

Author: [Ronald M. Jacobs](#)

Ron Jacobs and Larry Norton presented "Election-Year Advocacy: Maintaining Your Nonprofit's Clear Message in Cloudy Legal Seas," a webinar covering topics for nonprofits engaged in political activity. You can view the [handout](#) for the presentation or [watch it online](#).

[Click here](#) to read a summary of the event on Venable's Political Law Blog, www.politicallawbriefing.com.

Virginia Enacts Statutory Gift Restrictions

Author: [Alexandra Megaris](#)

As we described in a [January 16 post](#), moments after being sworn in as Virginia's 72nd governor on January 11, Governor McAuliffe signed an executive order imposing new gift restrictions on Executive Branch employees and officers and their immediate family members. Although touted by the legislature as sweeping ethics reform, the new law has garnered significant attention not on what it covers, but what it does not cover.

[Click here](#) to read the complete article on Venable's Political Law Blog, www.politicallawbriefing.com.

The "Ministry of Truth" Goes to Court

Author: [Ronald M. Jacobs](#)

Like 15 other states, Ohio has a law that prohibits false statements made during a campaign. The law allows virtually anyone to file a complaint alleging that an ad is false and allows the Ohio Elections Commission to make the initial determination as to whether it is truthful or not. The problem is that once the Commission issues a finding that an ad is false, the next step is a referral to a prosecutor who may or may not do anything about it. Unfortunately for the speaker, media outlets may refuse to carry the message.

[Click here](#) to read the complete article on Venable's Political Law Blog, www.politicallawbriefing.com.

Are Super PACs Finally Allowed in New York?

Authors: [Craig Ready](#) and [Ronald M. Jacobs](#)

As [discussed](#) last fall, against the fairly settled case law around the country, New York continued to fight against Super PACs. New York argued that its annual limit on total contributions an individual may make to all New York political committees of \$150,000 applied to independent expenditure-only Super PACs. A Super PAC that wanted to support a New York City mayoral candidate in last November's election challenged that law, but [lost](#) in the lower court. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit [reversed](#) that decision saying, "[f]ew contested legal questions are answered so consistently by so many courts and judges." Yet New York continued to fight when the case went back to the lower court.

[Click here](#) to read the complete article on Venable's Political Law Blog, www.politicallawbriefing.com.

Reimbursing Contributions and Foreign Money: A Bad

Combination

Author: [Ronald M. Jacobs](#)

As a reminder that it's not the complicated campaign finance laws but the simple ones that will get people into trouble, a straw donor in southern California recently **pleaded guilty** to a number of federal charges.

[Click here](#) to read the complete article on Venable's Political Law Blog, www.politicallawbriefing.com.

After *McCutcheon*, the Supreme Court Declines to Hear Case Involving Ban on Direct Corporate Contributions

Author: [Craig Ready](#)

Much of the post-*McCutcheon* discussion has focused on what might follow from the decision: are there other dominos to fall? Some predicted the ban on direct corporate contributions might be in play and noted that there was a case pending for the Supreme Court to consider. But the Court declined to hear that case.

[Click here](#) to read the complete article on Venable's Political Law Blog, www.politicallawbriefing.com.

Supreme Court Strikes Down Cap on Total Individual Contributions, Aftershocks Likely to Have Bigger Impact than Ruling Itself

Authors: [Lawrence H. Norton](#) and [Ronald M. Jacobs](#)

The Supreme Court **struck down** the limit on the total amount an individual may contribute to federal candidates, PACs and political parties in a two-year election cycle. The 5-4 ruling is unlikely to have a major impact on political giving this year, but casts serious doubt on the constitutionality of similar state contribution schemes and paves the way for further challenges to federal campaign finance laws.

[Click here](#) to read the complete article on Venable's Political Law Blog, www.politicallawbriefing.com.

Upcoming Event

[Surviving a Governmental Investigation without a Black Eye: Key Legal, Communications and Crisis Response Considerations for Nonprofits](#)

May 20, 2014

Governmental investigations of nonprofits are increasingly common and can take many forms and come from many places: Congressional, federal and state agencies (both civil and criminal), and IRS audits of tax-exempt status, to name a few. And, as many nonprofits can attest, it is far from just the bad actors that get investigated. This is a program you will want to attend before your nonprofit becomes the target of an investigation, not after.

[Click here](#) to learn more and register.

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