



## THIS ISSUE

**MONUMENT HAPPENINGS 1**

**WELCOME TO NEW CLIENTS 2**

**MGP IN THE NEWS 3**

**IN THE SPOTLIGHT: AROUND THE CAPITOL AND BEYOND 4**

## ABOUT US

Monument Policy Group, LLC is a strategic consulting & government affairs firm that provides clients with unique insight into how federal public policy is created and influenced by the U.S. Congress, the executive branch and other key stakeholders.

## MONUMENT HAPPENINGS

### *INAUGURAL NEWSLETTER*

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the Monument Policy Group newsletter. We hope that our clients and friends find it an interesting review of some of our efforts to influence public policy. We welcome any thoughts on this edition, or ideas for future ones.

### *NEW SEATTLE OFFICE*

On July 23, the Monument Policy Group announced the opening of an office in Seattle, Wash., to enhance our client services for West Coast and Pacific Northwest companies. The new office is located at 3417 Fremont Avenue North, Ste 221, Seattle, WA 98103.

Heading up the new Seattle office will be Partner Timothy Punke, who will split his time between the firm's Washington, DC and Seattle offices.

Monument's Northwest clients include Microsoft, the National Center for APEC, REI, Weyerhaeuser, and Zillow.com.

### *MPG INTRODUCES LUNCH SERIES*

Monument recently initiated a monthly lunch series with key policymakers and thought-leaders on the issues that affect our clients.

The first lunch was held on September 25 with Jon Selib, Chief of Staff for Senator Max Baucus. If you are interested in participating in future luncheons, please let us know.

### *NEW TO THE MPG TEAM*

In July, the Monument Policy Group held a reception to welcome the new additions to the firm. Partner Jessica Herrera-Flanigan and Vice President Rich Thomas were introduced to clients and friends in an informal setting at the home of Gloria Dittus. "This was a great event," said Thomas. "It really showed the excellent relationships that have been formed and made me all the more pleased to be a part of the wide ranging Monument Policy family."

## **HOMELAND SECURITY ROUNDTABLE: SECURING OUR INFRASTRUCTURE**

On October 2, Monument co-sponsored a Breakfast Roundtable Panel with Crowell & Moring LLP on "Securing our Critical Infrastructure: Money, Technology, and Homeland Security Opportunities."

Moderating the panel was David Bodenheimer of Crowell & Moring LLP. Panelists included:

- Robert Stephan, Assistant Secretary, Department of Homeland Security
- Paul Kurtz, Partner, Good Harbor Consulting
- Jessica Herrera-Flanigan, Partner, Monument Policy Group
- Mick Kicklighter, Director, Center for Infrastructure Protection, George Mason University School of Law

The panelists discussed the status of the nation's critical infrastructure protection efforts, as well as the need for a stronger public-private partnership. They encouraged companies to "think outside the box" in terms of creative solutions to security problems affecting the nation's critical infrastructures. They also discussed the pending Cybersecurity Security Initiative.

## **MONUMENT POLICY GROUP INTERN PROGRAM**

Monument Policy's internship program is off to a successful start. Since its inception in May 2008, the program is hosting its second intern. Allison Seyferth, a recent Graduate of Williams College, started with the firm in mid-August. Allison, originally from Bennington, VT, graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Economy. In her time with Monument, she has proven herself to be a valuable asset with her strong attention to detail and outstanding work ethic. We look forward to working with her this fall.

## **WELCOME TO NEW CLIENTS**

Over the summer, we were excited to welcome several new clients. We wanted to pass along brief summaries of their businesses in case you see opportunities for partnerships or follow their issues.

- Verified Identity Pass - New York-based VIP runs the domestic aviation registered traveler program operating at major U.S. airports (including Reagan, Dulles, and, soon, BWI) under the "CLEAR" brand-name. About 210,000 people have enrolled in the program, which costs \$128, and allows those passing a security check to receive faster security reviews at airports. CLEAR cards are also now being used for expedited entrance into several NFL venues. For more information, see [www.flyclear.com](http://www.flyclear.com).
- REI - REI is the leading retailer in the United States selling outdoor recreational equipment. Headquartered in Washington state, it operates more than 100 stores. It is the largest membership-owned co-op in the U.S., with more than 3.5 million active members and more than 10,000 employees. It has local stores in Bailey's Crossroads, Fairfax, College Park, Rockville and Timonium. For more information, see [www.rei.com](http://www.rei.com).
- USIS - USIS is the largest provider of background check services in the U.S. The company's roots date back to 1883, with the establishment of the Civil Service Commission in the wake of President James A. Garfield's assassination. For more than half a century, USIS' predecessor served as the Investigations Service arm of the Office of Personnel Management. In 1996, USIS was formed on the initiative of President Clinton as part of his Reinventing Government Initiative. USIS is headquartered in Falls Church, VA. For more information, see <http://www.usis.com>.

# MPG IN THE NEWS

## ***RYAN SPANGLER PROMOTED TO DIRECTOR***

In June, the firm promoted Ryan Spangler to Director from Manager. Ryan joined Monument in June 2007. Prior to joining us, Ryan served in Senator Joseph Biden (D-DE)'s office. As a sidenote, Ryan was thrilled when Barack Obama tapped Senator Joe Biden as the Democratic Vice President nominee. Spangler, who worked as Deputy Scheduler for Biden from 2004 - 2007 stated, "Not only is Senator Biden a dedicated life long public servant and foreign policy expert, but he is also a great guy who continually demonstrates decency and family values."

## ***FOX NEWS SIGHTING: STEWART VERDERY***

On August 1, Stewart Verdery appeared as an expert commentator on the Fox News Channel to discuss the controversy concerning the seizure of laptop computers by U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers at U.S. airports. Stewart explained the need for aggressive border security, but advocated that CBP provide guidelines on returning inspected equipment and that Congress enact legislation to clean up federal watchlists for aggrieved travelers.

## ***HERRERA-FLANIGAN NAMED HNBA REGION V (DC, VA, MD, WV) PRESIDENT***

On September 6, Jessica Herrera-Flanigan was sworn in as the Region V (DC, VA, MD, WV) President of the Hispanic National Bar Association, which represents the interests of the more than 38,000 Hispanic attorneys, judges, law professors, legal assistants, and law students in the United States and its territories.

## ***CENTER FOR AMERICAN PROGRESS ACTION FUND & THIRD WAY CREATE HOMELAND SECURITY PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITION INITIATIVE, NAME PARTNERS AS ADVISORS***

The Center for American Progress Action Fund and Third Way created the Homeland Security Presidential Transition Initiative this summer to evaluate the homeland security transitions facing our nation. A select group of advisory board members were chosen to provide expertise and guidance to the Initiative, including MPG partners Stewart Verdery and Jessica Herrera-Flanigan.

## ***HERRERA-FLANIGAN APPOINTED TO HOMELAND SECURITY & DEFENSE BUSINESS COUNCIL ADVISORY BOARD***

On June 27, the Homeland Security & Defense Business Council named Partner Jessica Herrera-Flanigan to its newly formed Board of Advisors. The Board of Advisors is composed of recognizable former ranking public sector experts who served within the governmental side of the homeland security marketplace that have transitioned into the private sector. For more information, see <http://www.homelandcouncil.org/>.

## ***THE CLOSING OF THE AMERICAN BORDER: EDWARD ALDEN BOOK FEATURES VERDERY***

On September 16, Edward Alden's provocative book on border and immigration policy pre and post 9/11 was released. The book features a series of interviews from former Bush Administration officials, including Monument's own Stewart Verdery.

# IN THE SPOTLIGHT:

## AROUND THE CAPITOL AND BEYOND

### **NBTA INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION**

The Monument Policy Group helped the National Business Travel Association (NBTA) hold its most successful convention in its 40-year history in late July. Nearly 6500 corporate travel professionals, including more than 1400 travel buyers, attended the 40th Annual NBTA International Convention & Exposition in Los Angeles. The Monument team moderated two educational panels, one with surrogate speakers from the Presidential campaign and a second on EU-Security Initiatives.

### **SBODAC**

The Secure Borders and Open Doors Advisory Committee to the Departments of Homeland Security and State has been advising the agencies since December 2006 on travel and tourism policies. Monument assisted Committee co-chair, Sybase CEO John Chen, and the other members in drafting a 50-page report, issued earlier this year, with 44 recommendations to improve the climate for secure travel to the U.S. The SBODAC is wrapping up its work this fall and has submitted an update on what has been accomplished to implement its recommendations.

### **MONUMENT PARTICIPATES IN TIA 3RD ANNUAL TRAVEL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT**

On September 24 and 25, the Travel Industry Association held its 3rd Annual Travel Leadership Summit in Washington D.C. Representatives from more than 27 states attended the event. During the Policy Meeting of the Convention, Partner Stewart Verdery participated in a panel on "International Travel Facilitation Issues." The panel, which also featured P.J. Crowley from the Center for American Progress, looked at how homeland security might

change under the next Administration, as well as examined the travel community's top international facilitation priorities for 2009.

### **XM-SIRIUS MERGER APPROVED**

On July 29th, the Federal Communications Commission approved the merger of satellite radio companies Sirius and XM. The Monument team worked for XM to assist in gaining political and stakeholder support for the merger, focusing on the House and Senate Commerce and Judiciary Committees.

### **WORKING WITH NCAPEC TO PROMOTE THE 2011 APEC MEETINGS IN THE UNITED STATES**

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Organization (APEC) brings together some of the fastest growing economies from dynamic parts of the world. With 21 of the world's leading economies as members, their annual meetings facilitate economic growth and shared strategic objectives. The National Center for APEC, a private business association, works specifically with a broad range of U.S. companies to navigate the APEC process and help create opportunities for market access and business facilitation. The National Center has also been designated to coordinate all private sector functions when the U.S. has its turn in 2011 to host the year-long series of APEC activities. The Monument team is working with the National Center to help ensure robust U.S. involvement and lay the groundwork for a successful year of events. Understanding the strategic importance of APEC and the possible benefits for a variety of American businesses, the National Center and Monument are working closely with Congress and the Administration to raise the profile of APEC and the 2011 meetings.