

Top Law Firms Snatch Up the Most Biden-Era Legal Talent



A notable shift is underway as top U.S. law firms continue to absorb a wave of former Biden administration attorneys. Between December 2024 and July 2025, around **250 lawyers** transitioned from roles in the White House, Main Justice, and the Federal Trade Commission to private practice in BigLaw and beyond.

Prominent Moves and Firm Activity

- **Edward Siskel**, who served as White House Counsel under President Biden, has joined **Latham & Watkins**. This move highlights a broader pattern of prominent government lawyers entering elite private firms
- Other firms actively hiring Biden administration talent include **Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton**, **Cravath, Swaine & Moore**, **King & Spalding**, **Paul Weiss**, **Quinn Emanuel**, **Sidley Austin**, **Weil, Gotshal & Manges**, and **WilmerHale**.
- **King & Spalding** in particular made headlines earlier this year by bringing on multiple former Biden officials, such as **Lauren Roth** (former FDA policy head), **Nema Milaninia** (former State Department advisor on cybersecurity/AI), and **Ryan Majerus** (from Commerce Department)

Market Forces and Talent Pool Shifts

- These transitions occur against a backdrop of heightened competition. Firms are now inundated with applications from federal lawyers, even as demand in typical practice areas like white-collar criminal defense has slowed
- This influx of legal talent, coupled with conservative hiring practices and reduced enforcement activity, is reshaping the traditional “revolving door” from government to private sector.