Chapter 1

Introduction

§ 1:0 *[Reserved]*

§ 1:1 Overview

This 2027 volume of *Lobbying, PACs and Campaign Finance: 50 State Handbook*, the publication's 33rd annual edition, summarizes lobbying, governmental ethics, and campaign finance laws of the 50 states and the United States and demonstrates how states and the federal government regulate outlets through which money influences legislation, government, and elections. Chapters are written by attorneys, many of whom act as lobbyists for clients as well as advise on compliance with the laws discussed in this publication. These laws are frequently amended, litigated, and interpreted, and readers should confirm that statutory language and judicial interpretations are current before relying on them.

The chapters reflect how state and federal judicial and legislative bodies try to balance constitutionally protected First Amendment rights of expression and association against concerns about the appearance or reality of corruption in legislation, government, or elections. Of these issues, campaign finance matters are most frequently before the courts.

As indicated in the pages that follow, interpretation of laws regulating lobbying, governmental ethics, and campaign finance is an ongoing process, yielding an endless stream of new material for future annual editions of this Handbook.

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The Handbook's chapters use similar subject headings for each jurisdiction according to the following outline to facilitate the summarization and comparison of state and federal laws.

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