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If you have any questions regarding the matters discussed in this memorandum, please call one of the following representatives in the Political Law Group (Washington, D.C. office) or your regular Skadden contact.

Kenneth A. Gross Partner | 202.371.7007 kenneth.gross@skadden.com

> Ki P. Hong Partner | 202.371.7017 ki.hong@skadden.com

Matthew Bobys Counsel | 202.371.7739 matthew.bobys@skadden.com

Melissa Miles Counsel | 202.371.7836 melissa.miles@skadden.com

Patricia Zweibel Counsel | 202.371.7089 patricia.zweibel@skadden.com

Rachel Applestein
Associate | 202.371.7511
rachel.applestein@skadden.com

Shayla Parker Associate | 202.371.7534 shayla.parker@skadden.com

Charles Ricciardelli
Associate | 202.371.7573
charles.ricciardelli@skadden.com

Tyler Rosen Associate | 202.371.7035 tyler.rosen@skadden.com

Tanya Sehgal Associate | 202.371.7636 tanya.sehgal@skadden.com

Kelvin Reese Head Political Reports Analyst 202.371.7498 kelvin.reese@skadden.com

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State Parties File Legal Challenge Against SEC Rule 206(4)-5

On August 7, 2014, the New York and Tennessee state Republican parties brought suit against the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC), challenging Rule 206(4)-5 (the rule). Specifically, the complaint seeks an injunction against the enforcement of the rule's political contribution restrictions with respect to federal contributions. The plaintiffs contend that the rule constitutes impermissible regulation of political contributions by the SEC under the Administrative Procedures Act and the First Amendment. Further, they argue that such regulations are preempted by the Federal Election Campaign Act. Please note that the suit only seeks relief with respect to federal contributions and does not seek relief with respect to state and local contributions. A copy of the complaint can be found here.