



Foreign Investment & National Security

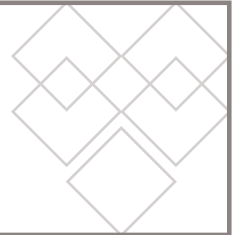
2025



PROFILED:

GREGORY R. GONZALEZ

Wilkinson Barker Knauer, LLP





Foreign Investment
& National Security



GREGORY R. GONZALEZ

Partner

Wilkinson Barker Knauer, LLP

Washington, DC, US

T: +1 (202) 383 3380

E: ggonzalez@wbkllaw.com

PERSONAL BIOGRAPHY

Gregory Gonzalez joined Wilkinson Barker Knauer as a partner in the national security practice after spending over thirteen years with the US Department of Justice. During his government tenure, he served as an adviser to the intelligence community, a prosecutor and counsel to the assistant attorney general for national security. He confronted many cutting-edge national security challenges, including threats from nation-states seeking to obtain critical technologies through foreign investments in US businesses. As geopolitical security dynamics increasingly impact international commerce, he draws on his experience to help clients decode opaque government interactions and to anticipate and address risks to their business objectives.

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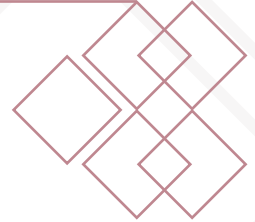


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Q&A WITH GREGORY R. GONZALEZ

**Could you describe your approach to tackling complex legal challenges?
What principles or philosophies guide your work?**

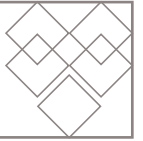
◆ In the practice of national security law, the government entities which administer the laws and regulations have virtually unlimited resources and access to information that legal counsel on the outside do not have. As such, it is particularly challenging for lawyers representing clients that have matters before such regulators or are potentially subject to a regulatory compliance regime in this space. When faced with this dynamic, I first focus intently on understanding a client's business objectives and then on developing an assessment of the legal risks that could adversely impact those business objectives. This requires an efficient but thorough due diligence process that assumes the perspective of a hypothetical government regulator who may have a significantly different tolerance for national security risk. After establishing the outer boundaries of legal risk, I work with the client to develop a tailored, flexible strategy to minimise risk, consistent with its business objectives.

What role do you play in your firm's community outreach or pro bono initiatives? How has this involvement impacted you personally and professionally?

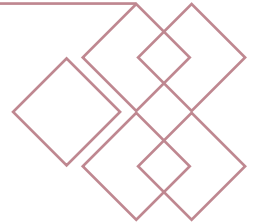
◆ Before moving to the private sector in 2022, I spent the first 19 years of my legal career in public service. I was drawn to the legal profession because of the opportunities that the profession provides to help others who face significant challenges in their lives. I have carried that ethos to my pro bono work at our firm, which wholeheartedly supports my efforts. I feel incredibly fortunate to be in the position to continue to give back to others in a very impactful way. Two matters that I am particularly proud

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of include my representation of a military veteran who was on the verge of eviction, and a long-term project assisting an international association of lawyers seeking to ensure that fundamental human rights are respected as countries throughout Africa formulate laws and regulations to address challenges posed by the increasing digitalisation of society.

**Looking ahead, what are your predictions for this area of the market?
What key developments are on the horizon?**

◆ Over the next few years, I believe that international commerce and trade will become increasingly impacted by geopolitical competition between the US and China. The tensions will reverberate across the world, subsuming both developed and developing nations. For those who pay close attention to these issues, rarely a day goes by without action by the US government to address policymakers' national security concerns. For instance, the US Treasury Department recently adopted new rules, which came into effect on 2 January 2025, that will curtail the ability of US companies to make certain investments in Chinese companies, in the areas of semiconductors, quantum computing and artificial intelligence. This Outbound Investment Security Program will also have notification requirements for other covered transactions. As the programme evolves, it is likely that the regulations will become more complex and require heightened focus to maintain compliance and avoid enforcement risk. ■

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BY GEOPOLITICAL COMPETITION BETWEEN THE US AND CHINA."**



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REPRESENTATIVE ENGAGEMENTS

- ◆ Provided counsel to telecommunications companies seeking US government regulatory approvals prompted by foreign investments.
- ◆ Advised clients in conducting pre-transactional CFIUS due diligence.
- ◆ Counseled investment firms on proposed transactions pending before CFIUS.
- ◆ Assisted a client in establishing a CFIUS mitigation corporate compliance programme.
- ◆ Provided advice to telecommunications and energy sector companies on supply chain investments involving advanced technologies with national security implications.
- ◆ Advised companies on business implications of US export controls and economic sanctions.

