



# U.S. House Committee on **ENERGY & COMMERCE**

*Joe Barton*

Chairman, R-Texas

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## **Panel's Top Investigator Moving to Dickstein Shapiro LLP**

**WASHINGTON** – After 10 years of service, the House Energy and Commerce Committee's chief counsel for oversight and investigations, Mark Paoletta, is leaving to join Dickstein Shapiro LLP, Chairman Joe Barton, R-Texas, announced today.

"I was chairman of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee when Mark started here," Barton said. "Right away it was clear that his knowledge, dedication and professionalism would set new standards for his line of work.

"During Mark's tenure, Energy and Commerce has, without question, greatly enhanced its reputation as Capitol Hill's top oversight committee," Barton added. "His leadership helped make that possible. I will always be grateful for Mark's insight and advice and I wish him well."

"As Chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, I've worked very closely with Mark Paoletta over the past two years," said U.S. Rep. Ed Whitfield, R-Ky. "Members of Congress know that to be effective in our official duties we must have great staff, and Mark Paoletta is one of the best. What is most striking about Mark is his innate ability to identify topics to be investigated, drill down on them, and bring to light issues that people may not see because they weren't obvious on the surface.

"One such issue was Internet child pornography," Whitfield added. "Through Mark's persistence and passion, our subcommittee held a series of hearings that helped expose this problem, one that many Americans were unaware of and frankly didn't want to know was happening in our society. While the Internet has revolutionized the way we communicate, it has also provided a way for deviants to prey upon our children. Through our hearings, we exposed how online pedophiles operated and the dangers they pose to children and families. Our hearings provided a tremendous service to the public and spurred industry changes to combat this problem. I credit Mark's efforts for helping bring this issue to light and to help us try to put an end to Internet child pornography. Mark's extraordinary talent and dedication will be difficult to replace, and he will be missed. I know he will continue to find success in his future endeavors."

Soon Paoletta will become partner at Dickstein Shapiro's Washington office, working in the firm's Government Law & Strategy group and focusing his practice on congressional investigations.

Since 1997 Paoletta has served as chief counsel for oversight and investigations, heading up more than 200 hearings, including high-profile inquiries into the recent Hewlett Packard corporate spying scandal, the recall of Firestone tires by Ford Motor Company and the collapse of Enron Corp.

Before joining the House Energy and Commerce Committee, he was a partner at two Washington law firms – Keck, Mahin & Cate and O’Connor & Hannan. Paoletta is also a veteran of the first Bush administration, having served as assistant counsel to the president and earlier as deputy associate director of the Office of Presidential Personnel.

Paoletta earned a Juris Doctorate from Georgetown University and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Duquesne University, graduating *magna cum laude*. A native of Bridgeport, Conn., he is married to Patricia Paoletta and lives in Falls Church, Va., with their four children.

Joining him at Dickstein Shapiro as counsel is Andrew Snowdon, currently oversight and investigations counsel to the committee. Snowdon’s prior employment included senior positions at the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and the U.S. Attorney’s office for the Eastern District of Virginia.

“Andrew has been a critical part of our oversight team and we will miss him,” Barton said. “From exposing the government’s overpayment for prescription drugs in the Medicaid program to shining a light on BP’s gross mismanagement of the Alaska pipeline, Andrew’s legal acumen and hard work have greatly contributed to our success.”

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