



Luis G. Fortuño

PARTNER

Washington, DC
+1 202 429 8015

Areas of Work

Corporate, Government Affairs & Public Policy, Infrastructure & Project Finance, Qualified Opportunity Zones

Languages

Spanish

Overview

Former Governor of Puerto Rico Luis G. Fortuño represents investment funds and Fortune 500 companies in regulatory, public policy, public-private partnership (P3) and project finance, finance, and other corporate matters in the United States and throughout Latin America.

Clients benefit from Luis's ability to combine practical, business-savvy advice with an understanding of how legislative and regulatory policy can affect their business operations. His 12 years of government service includes serving as Puerto Rico's governor and as its sole representative in the US House of Representatives. Under his leadership as governor from 2009 to 2012, Puerto Rico implemented the largest tax cut in the territory's history, right-sized its government, reined in deficit spending, and developed new sources of government revenue, resulting in the island's only period of economic growth in over a decade. Additionally, Luis's signature public-private partnerships law paved the way for two of the largest recent infrastructure investments in the US, one in Puerto Rico's highway system and the island's main international airport. Other P3 transactions during his tenure included schools, energy projects, and ferry services.

Luis served from 2005 to 2008 in the US House of Representatives, holding the roles of vice-president of his House Republican freshman class and later as vice-chair and then chair of the Congressional Hispanic Conference during the 109th and 110th Congresses, respectively. Additionally, he served as co-chair of the Congressional Friends of Spain Caucus. In 2007, he was appointed as the Republican minority's ranking member on the Natural Resource Committee's Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs. He also served as a member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure, International Relations, and Education and Workforce committees.

Bar & Court Admissions

- District of Columbia
- Puerto Rico
- US Court of Appeals, First Circuit

Education

- J.D., University of Virginia School of Law, 1985
- B.S.F.S., Georgetown University, 1982

Speaking Engagements

- Delegate, Republican Convention, 1996, 2004, 2008, 2012, 2016
 - Panelist, "Reaction Panel, Healthcare Agenda in Puerto Rico & Washington, DC," Puerto Rico Chamber of Commerce
- 2021 Health & Insurance Conference, March 26, 2021
- Panelist, "Economic Liberty in Puerto Rico," Puerto Rico Manufacturers Association Annual Convention, June 1, 2019
- Keynote Speaker, 2018 Puerto Rico Investment Forum, Shanghai, China, November 14, 2018
- Panelist, "Economic Policies that Work in our Region," Relial 2018 Congress, Dominican Republic, October 12, 2018
- Panelist, "The Mother of Exiles: Immigration Reform," UVA Center for Politics, September 27, 2018
- Panelist, "The 2016 Presidential Race," Georgetown University, October 8, 2016
- International Observer, Jordan's Parliamentary Election, Joint IRI-NDI Delegation, September 1, 2016
 - "Republican Principles in American Global Engagement," International Republican Institute panel, *Republican National Convention*, Cleveland, OH, July 19, 2016
 - "We Run, We Vote, We Decide: Latinos and Election 2016," NALEO panel, *Republican National Convention*, Cleveland, OH, July 19, 2016
 - "Latino Voters at Risk: Assessing the Impact of Restrictive Voting Changes in the 2016 Election," *NALEO Educational Fund*, Washington, DC, May 11, 2016
- Guest Speaker, "Financial Crime Series - The US Perspective," Deloitte, May 16, 2016
- Puerto Rico Faces \$70B Debt Bill, CNN Money interview, May 2, 2016
- What's Next for Puerto Rico, CNBC interview, May 2, 2016
 - "Public-Private Partnerships: Stories of Success," *Georgetown University's Baker Center for Leadership & Governance*, April 18, 2016
 - "Leadership Lessons From an Ambassador, Governor, Secretary, and Senator," *George Washington University*, Washington, DC, March 2016
- "Puerto Rico on the Brink: Energy, Economy, Security," *The American Security Project*, Washington, DC, March 2016
- Panelist, Election Year Seminar, *Media Research Center*, February 2016
 - "Swing States and Wildcards," *American University's 2nd Annual Latino Public Affairs Forum: The Role of the Latino Vote in the 2016 Presidential Election*, Washington, DC, February 29, 2016
- Puerto Rico's Debt Crisis Causing Concern for Citizens, Al Jazeera America News interview, July 2, 2015
- Puerto Rico Faces Historic \$72B Default, CNBC Power Lunch interview, July 16, 2015
- Puerto Rico: The Other Debt Crisis, Bloomberg Business, Bloomberg Markets interview, July 17, 2015
- Puerto Rico's Current Debt Crisis, CNBC Squawk on the Street interview, June 30, 2015
 - "Examining Procedures Regarding Puerto Rico's Political Status and Economic Outlook," House Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Indian, Insular, and Alaska Native Affairs, June 24, 2015
 - "What's Next for Puerto Rico," *National Federation of Municipal Analysts' 32nd Annual Conference*, Las Vegas, Nevada, May 14, 2015
- *National Review's* Post-Election Discussion, November 2014
- "The Role of Hispanics in America," *Office of the Comptroller of the Currency*, Washington, DC, October 2014
 - "Impacting Economic Development in the Hispanic Community," *Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Metro Orlando and the Libre Initiative*, Valencia College, October 2014

- "Knowledge Economy in the 21st Century," *Universidad Metropolitana*, September 2014
- "The Status of Puerto Rico Dilemma," *George Washington University's Elliott School*, September 2014
- "Role of Public Private Partnerships in Infrastructure Development," *Associated General Contractors Conference*, Washington, DC, June 2014
- "P3s: A Government Perspective from Outside the Fence," *Associated General Contractors of America*, Mayflower Hotel, *Washington, DC*, June 2014
- "Development Agenda for the Caribbean," *Iberoamerican University and Central Eastern University*, Dominican Republic, May 2014
- "Puerto Rico Fiscal Situation," *Boston Municipal Analysts Forum*, March 13, 2014
- "The Market Potential of Latin America," *Conservative Political Action Conference*, March 8, 2014
- "Constitutional and Legal Implications of the Status of Puerto Rico Discussion," *Georgetown University Law Center*, January 29, 2014
- "Business Opportunities in Latin America," *Cobb County Chamber of Commerce*, October 28, 2013
- "The Free Trade Agreement Between the US and the EU," *Congressional Hispanic Leadership Institute*, October 9, 2013
- Keynote speaker, "Can-Do States: A New Era for Infrastructure Investment," *Brookings Institution*, July 12, 2013
- "The Use of P-3s in Social Infrastructure Projects," *High-Performance Building Congressional Caucus (US Congress)*, July 10, 2013
- "Public-Private Partnerships in Infrastructure Projects," *International Transportation and Logistics Conference*, May 7, 2013
- "Infrastructure Financing for Cities," *Clinton Global Initiative & US Chamber of Commerce*, April 19, 2013
- Keynote speaker, "Public-Private Partnerships in Puerto Rico," Tunnel and Turnpike Association's Annual *Transportation Finance and Mileage-Based User Fee Symposium*, April 15, 2013

News & Publications

PRESS RELEASES

Steptoe Launches Financial Services University

Video Series to Explore Financial Services Legal, Business and Regulatory Matters
October 21, 2020

CLIENT ALERTS

Understanding the Main Street Lending Program

June 16, 2020

By: Matthew B. Kulkin, Micah S. Green, John T. Collins, Scott A. Sinder, James D. Barnette, Luis G. Fortuño, Jason Abel, George Callas

MEDIA MENTIONS

***Bloomberg* Interviews Luis Fortuño on SCOTUS Decision on Puerto Rico's Debt Crisis**

June 8, 2020

MEDIA MENTIONS

The Lobbying Show Interviews Luis Fortuño on Governing in Times of Crisis

April 20, 2020

CLIENT ALERTS

Resources and Assistance for Institutions of Higher Education under the CARES Act

April 3, 2020

By: Jason Abel, Scott A. Sinder, Alan Cohn, Luis G. Fortuño, Leslie A. Belcher

CLIENT ALERTS

Debt Buyback Considerations Amidst Market Uncertainty

March 18, 2020

By: Scott D. Fisher, Luis G. Fortuño, William E. Turner, II

MEDIA MENTIONS

***UVA Lawyer* Names Luis Fortuño to '100 Change Agents' List**

June 4, 2019

PRESS RELEASES

***The Hill* Again Names Jason Abel, Luis Fortuño, Micah Green to Top Lobbyists List**

December 13, 2018

MEDIA MENTIONS

Media Cover Steptoe's Post-Election Analysis of 2018 Midterms

November 28, 2018

MEDIA MENTIONS

***Yicai Global* Cites Luis Fortuño on Puerto Rico Attracting Chinese Investment**

November 20, 2018

Resources

FINANCIAL SERVICES UNIVERSITY

Financial Services University

FINANCIAL SERVICES GROUP ADVISORY

How to Access Treasury Department Funding Under the CARES Act

March 29, 2020

By: Matthew B. Kulkin, Micah S. Green, John T. Collins, Scott A. Sinder, James D. Barnette, Luis G. Fortuño, Jason Abel, George Callas

FINANCIAL SERVICES GROUP ADVISORY

Federal Reserve Establishes, Expands Emergency Capital Liquidity Facilities

March 25, 2020

By: Matthew B. Kulkin, Micah S. Green, John T. Collins, Scott A. Sinder, James D. Barnette, Luis G. Fortuño, Jason Abel, George Callas, N. Hunter Johnston

FINANCIAL SERVICES GROUP ADVISORY

US Financial Regulatory Response to COVID-19

March 24, 2020

By: Matthew B. Kulkin, Micah S. Green, John T. Collins, Scott A. Sinder, James D. Barnette, Luis G. Fortuño, Jason Abel, George Callas

Events

WEBINARS

Post-Election Recap: Puerto Rico

Stephoe Covers the Election and Its Impact on You

November 19, 2020

Speakers: Luis G. Fortuño, Micah S. Green

WEBINARS

Bankruptcy 101: End of the Road or an Opportunity to Restructure?

July 21, 2020

Speakers: Luis G. Fortuño, Jeffrey M. Reisner

WEBINARS

Post-Election Recap

Policymaking Agenda for 2019

November 8, 2018

Speakers: Jason Abel, James D. Barnette, Leslie A. Belcher, Elizabeth Hurley Burks, George Callas, John T. Collins, Luis G. Fortuño, Micah S. Green, N. Hunter Johnston, Darryl Nirenberg, Scott A. Sinder

WEBINARS

Policymaking Agenda for 2017

Post-Election Recap

November 10, 2016

Speakers: Jason Abel, James D. Barnette, Leslie A. Belcher, Elizabeth Hurley Burks, Christopher Caron, David H. Coburn, John T. Collins, Richard O. Cunningham, Ambassador Susan G. Esserman, Luis G. Fortuño, Micah S. Green, N. Hunter Johnston, Darryl Nirenberg, Allison Nyholm, Scott A. Sinder, Amanda Pedvin Varma

Noteworthy

- *UVA Lawyer*, "100 Change Agents" (2019)
- *The Hill*, "Top Lobbyists" (2017-2018)

Previous Employment

- Governor, Puerto Rico (2009-2012)
- Representative, US House of Representatives (2005-2008)
- Secretary of Economic Development and Commerce for Puerto Rico (1994-1996)
- President, Puerto Rico's Hotel Development Corporation (1993-1996)
- Executive director, Puerto Rico Tourism Company (1993-1996)

Professional Affiliations

- American Law Institute
- Puerto Rico's National Committeeman at the Republican National Committee (2001-present); member of the RNC's budget committee
- President, Council of State Governments (2011-2012)
- Chairman, Southern Governors Association (2011-2012)
- Board of Directors, Center for Best Practices of the National Governors Association (2010-2012)
- President Obama appointee to the Council of Governors (2010-2012)
- Advisory Board, International Republican Institute
- Board of Advisors, SeaOne Holdings, LLC
- Board of Directors, Republican State Leadership Committee
- Board of Directors, American Action Network
- Board of Directors, Congressional Leadership Fund
- Board of Directors, Abertis Infraestructuras, S.A. (2015-2018)
- Georgetown University's Latin American Board
- Fellow, Georgetown University's Institute of Politics and Public Service, Fall 2015 semester