



Preston Rutledge

Principal and Founder, Rutledge Policy Group, LLC

Biography

Preston Rutledge was the Assistant Secretary of Labor for the Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA) during the Trump Administration, where he led an agency of over 800 employee benefits professionals in Washington, D.C. and thirteen regional offices. Following his government career, he founded Rutledge Policy Group LLC, a government affairs consultancy focused on tax, retirement savings and employee benefits policy. He also is a Strategic Consulting Advisor to Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck LLP, in Washington, D.C. At EBSA, Mr. Rutledge led the drafting and publication of guidance to implement retirement, health and workplace benefits policies, including rules governing ESG, proxy voting, private equity investment, the fiduciary advice rule, Association Retirement Plans, auto-portability and electronic disclosure. He also led oversight of the Federal Thrift Savings Plan, and represented the Secretary of Labor on the Boards of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation and the Social Security and Medicare Trust Funds. Mr. Rutledge was a member of the Insurance and Private Pensions Committee at the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and was Chair of the OECD Working Party on Private Pensions. Before joining the Department of Labor, Mr. Rutledge served as Senior Tax and Benefits counsel for the U.S. Senate Finance Committee under Chairman Orrin G. Hatch (R-UT). Earlier in his career, Mr. Rutledge served on the Headquarters Staff of the Tax Exempt and Government Entities Division of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), and in the Qualified Pension Plans Branch of the IRS Office of Chief Counsel. Mr. Rutledge also served as a law clerk on the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit and worked in private law practice as an employee benefits counselor and ERISA litigator.

Mr. Rutledge earned a B.S. in business, cum laude, from the University of Idaho; a J.D., with high honors, from the George Washington University School of Law, where he was a member of the Law Review and the Order of the Coif, and an L.L.M. – Taxation, with distinction, from the Georgetown University Law Center. Prior to law school, Mr. Rutledge was a Naval Officer, serving in the Supply Corps on the Destroyer Escort U.S.S. Bagley, and at the Pacific Fleet Accounting and Disbursing Center in San Diego, CA, where his duties included supply, logistics, contracting, and fiscal matters.