

Federal Trade Commission Noncompete Agreement Rule Is Challenged By Ryan, LLC In Latest Judge Shopping Move, Raising Ample Conflicts Over Company's Ties To The U.S. Chamber And Fifth Circuit Court Of Appeals

On April 23, 2024, The U.S. Federal Trade Commission (FTC) Announced Rulemaking That Bans Company "Noncompete Agreements" Nationwide, A Move Seen As A Win For Workers That Is Estimated To Lead To New Businesses Formation, Increase Workers' Wages By \$524 Per Year, And Lower Health Care Costs By \$194 Billion Over The Next Decade, With Tax Services Provider Ryan Filing A Lawsuit The Same Day In The U.S. District Court For The Northern District Of Texas Claiming The FTC Lacks The Authority To Ban Noncompetes And Is "Unconstitutionally Structured."

On April 23, 2024, The U.S. Federal Trade Commission (FTC) Announced It Would Ban "Noncompete Agreements" Nationwide, With FTC Chair Lina Khan Saying Noncompetes "Keep Wages Low" And "Suppress New Ideas," With The Agency Estimating The Rule Would Lead To Over 8,500 Additional Businesses Created Each Year And Increase Wages For The Average Worker By \$524 Per Year, Among Other Wins For Workers Rights.

April 23, 2024: The U.S. Federal Trade Commission (FTC) Issued Rulemaking Banning Noncompete Agreements Nationwide In A Move Protecting Workers' Rights To Change Jobs. "Today, the Federal Trade Commission issued a final rule to promote competition by banning noncompetes nationwide, protecting the fundamental freedom of workers to change jobs, increasing innovation, and fostering new business formation." [Federal Trade Commission, [04/23/24](#)]

- **According To FTC Chair Lina Khan, "Noncompete Clauses Keep Wages Low, Suppress New Ideas, And Rob The American Economy Of Dynamism," Adding "The FTC's Final Rule To Ban Noncompetes Will Ensure Americans Have The Freedom To Pursue A New Job, Start A New Business, Or Bring A New Idea To Market."** "Noncompete clauses keep wages low, suppress new ideas, and rob the American economy of dynamism, including from the more than 8,500 new startups that would be created a year once noncompetes are banned," said FTC Chair Lina M. Khan. "The FTC's final rule to ban noncompetes will ensure Americans have the freedom to pursue a new job, start a new business, or bring a new idea to market." [Federal Trade Commission, [04/23/24](#)]

The FTC Estimates Its Rule To Ban Noncompete Agreements "Will Lead To New Business Formation Growing By 2.7% Per Year, Resulting In More Than 8,500 Additional New Businesses Created Each Year," While Increasing Wages For The Average Worker By \$524 Per Year And Lowering Health Care Costs By Up To \$194 Billion Over The Next Decade. "The FTC estimates that the final rule banning noncompetes will lead to new business formation growing by 2.7% per year, resulting in more than 8,500 additional new businesses created each year. The final rule is expected to result in higher earnings for workers, with estimated earnings increasing for the average worker by an additional \$524 per year, and it is expected to lower health care costs by up to \$194 billion over the next decade. In addition, the final rule is

expected to help drive innovation, leading to an estimated average increase of 17,000 to 29,000 more patents each year for the next 10 years under the final rule." [Federal Trade Commission, [04/23/24](#)]

On The Same Day The FTC Announced Its Rule To Ban Noncompete Agreements, Dallas-Based Tax Services Provider, Ryan, Filed A Lawsuit In The U.S. District Court For The Northern District Of Texas Alleging The Rule "Would Upend IP Protections" And Talent Retention, Arguing The FTC Lacks The Authority To Prohibit Noncompetes And Was "Unconstitutionally Structured."

On April 23, 2024, Dallas-Based Tax Services Provider Ryan Announced It Filed A Lawsuit In The U.S. District Court For The Northern District Of Texas Challenging The FTC's Rule To Ban Noncompete Agreements, Claiming The Rule "'Would Upend Companies' IP Protections And Talent Development And Retention By Invalidating Millions Of Employment Contracts And Nullifying The Laws Of Dozens Of States.'" "Dallas-based global tax services and software provider Ryan has filed a lawsuit in federal court challenging the Federal Trade Commission's new non-compete rule. It's the first challenge filed against the rule, which 'would upend companies' IP protections and talent development and retention by invalidating millions of employment contracts and nullifying the laws of dozens of states, according to the FTC's own public estimation,' Ryan said. Filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas, the lawsuit says the new rule 'imposes an extraordinary burden on businesses seeking to protect their intellectual property and retain top talent within the professional services industries.' Ryan is seeking to prevent 'the immense, undue burdens the FTC's rule would impose on service-driven companies of every size nationwide.'" [Dallas Innovates, [04/23/24](#)]

In Its Release, Ryan Argued The "FTC Lack[ed] Authority To Prohibit Non-Compete Agreements" And Claim[ed] "The FTC Itself Is Unconstitutionally Structured." The FTC's rule would upend companies' IP protections and talent development and retention by invalidating millions of employment contracts and nullifying the laws of dozens of states, according to the FTC's own public estimation. [...] The Firm's complaint, filed in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas, contends that the FTC lacks the authority to prohibit non-compete agreements. It also argues that the FTC itself is unconstitutionally structured. [Ryan, [04/23/24](#)]

In The Spring Of 2023, Ryan Also Submitted A Public Comment Letter With Similar Language Opposing The FTC's Rule, Claiming Competitors Would Gain Insight To A Company's Intellectual Property By Just Hiring Its Employees.

Ryan Also Said The Company Submitted A Public Comment Against The FTC's Rule In Spring 2023, With Similar Language "Non-Compete Agreements Are An Important Tool For Firms To Protect Their IP And Foster Innovation," Adding Competitors Can Hire Workers "Just To Gain Insights Into Their Competitors' Intellectual Property." "Ryan sought to dissuade the FTC from this action by submitting last spring a 54-page public comment against the FTC's proposed rule. Ryan explained how non-compete agreements are an important tool for firms to protect their IP and foster innovation. Without them, firms could hire away a competitor's employees just to gain insights into their competitor's intellectual property. The FTC's decision to ban an important tool for protecting IP will inhibit firms from investing in that IP in the first place, resulting in a less innovative economy." [Ryan, [04/23/24](#)]

Noncompete Agreements Have Become Increasingly Used To Suppress Wages Within Underpaid Industries While Disproportionally Harming Women And People Of Color, As Well As The Employers And The General Economy By “Reduc[ing] The Number Of Available Workers, Making It Harder For Businesses To Grow.”

Noncompete Agreements Have Become Increasingly Used In Underpaid Industries Where Workers “Do Not Have The Time, Money, Or Access To Counsel To Challenge Them,” With Nearly 30% Of Noncompetes Covering Employees Making Below \$13 Per Hour.

Noncompete Agreements Have Become “Increasingly More Common In Underpaid Industries,” With Nearly 30% Of Noncompetes Covering Employees Making Below \$13 Per Hour. “While they remain prevalent for well-paid and highly educated workers, these agreements are increasingly more common in underpaid industries, irrespective of job duties or access to confidential information. Currently, almost 30 percent of non-competes cover workers who make below \$13 per hour.” [National Employment Law Project, [May 2022](#)]

Noncompete Agreements Are “Almost Impossible For Workers To Challenge Unless They Are Clearly Unconscionable” While “Many Underpaid Workers Do Not Have The Time, Money, Or Access To Counsel To Challenge Them.” “Legally, they are almost impossible for workers to challenge unless they are clearly unconscionable. Even where they are clearly unconscionable or inappropriate, however, many underpaid workers do not have the time, money, or access to counsel to challenge them.” [National Employment Law Project, [May 2022](#)]

Noncompetes Originated During The Reconstruction Era To “Maintain The Master-Slave Relationship” And Continue To Disproportionally Impact Women And People Of Color By “Decreas[ing] Entrepreneurship; Reduc[ing] Outside Work Due To Limited Ability And Willingness To Commute; Produc[ing] Fewer Wage Gains; And Provid[ing] Firms More Power To Discriminate.” Ultimately Leading To “Earnings Of Women And Workers Of Color [Being] Reduced By Twice As Much As White Male Workers When There Is Stricter Non-Compete Enforcement.”

Noncompete Agreements—Which Were Originally Used By Former Slave Owners During The Reconstruction Era To “Keep Freed Black Workers Working For Them And Maintain The Master-Slave Relationship”—Disproportionally Impact Women And People Of Color, Contributing To The Racial And Gender Wage Gaps. “Banning non-competes would help alleviate racial and gender wage gaps because the underpaid workers who are most affected are disproportionality women and people of color. In fact, the use of non-competes can be traced back to the Reconstruction Era, when former owners of enslaved people used non-competes to keep freed Black workers working for them and maintain the master-slave relationship.” [National Employment Law Project, [May 2022](#)]

Noncompete Agreements Impact Women And People Of Color By “Decreas[ing] Entrepreneurship; Reduc[ing] Outside Work Due To Limited Ability And Willingness To Commute; Produc[ing] Fewer Wage Gains; And Provid[ing] Firms More Power To Discriminate.” “Some reasons why non-competes can have a stronger impact on women and people of color are because they decrease entrepreneurship; reduce

outside work due to limited ability and willingness to commute; produce fewer wage gains; and provide firms more power to discriminate.” [National Employment Law Project, [May 2022](#)]

Women And People Of Color Are “Less Likely To Negotiate Than Their White Counterparts,” Potentially Resulting In “More Restrictive Agreements For Them,” With The “Earnings Of Women And Workers Of Color [...] Reduced By Twice As Much As White Male Workers When There Is Stricter Non-Compete Enforcement.” “Women and workers of color also are less likely to negotiate than their white counterparts, which may result in more restrictive agreements for them. Further, the earnings of women and workers of color are reduced by twice as much as white male workers when there is stricter non-competes enforcement.” [National Employment Law Project, [May 2022](#)]

Noncompetes Agreements Are Even Harmful To Employers And The Economy By “Reduc[ing] The Number Of Available Workers, Making It Harder For Businesses To Grow” While Also “Contribut[ing] To Negative Trends In The Economy By Reducing Economic Dynamism And Impeding Labor Market Competition, Thus Contributing To Wage Stagnation.”

Noncompetes Agreements Harm Employers And The Economy By “Reduc[ing] The Number Of Available Workers, Making It Harder For Businesses To Grow” While Also “Contribut[ing] To Negative Trends In The Economy By Reducing Economic Dynamism And Impeding Labor Market Competition, Thus Contributing To Wage Stagnation.” “Non-competes also harm employers and the economy. These clauses reduce the number of available workers, making it harder for businesses to grow. Job mobility helps to stimulate the economy because it encourages innovation when information is shared; entrepreneurship when workers leave their job to start new businesses; and regional industry development because companies can share workers with experience in the field. Non-competes contribute to negative trends in the economy by reducing economic dynamism and impeding labor market competition, thus contributing to wage stagnation. Companies are raising prices while simultaneously lowering their wages with non-competes, costing the average U.S. household \$5,000 per year.” [National Employment Law Project, [May 2022](#)]

Ryan Said It "Engaged Gene Scalia" And His Legal Team At Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP To Challenge The FTC's Rulemaking, The Same Law Firm Where Current Fifth Circuit Court Of Appeals Judge James Ho Worked Before Joining The Court, And Where His Wife Is Currently A Partner, Who Also Has Law Clerk Experience With Current Fifth Circuit Judge Jacques L. Weiner Jr.

In Its Press Release, Ryan Said It "Engaged Gene Scalia, Former US Secretary Of Labor, And His Team At Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP To Challenge Together The FTC's New Rule."

In Its Press Release Announcing Its Lawsuit, Ryan Said It "Engaged Gene Scalia, Former US Secretary Of Labor, And His Team At Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP To Challenge Together The FTC's New Rule." Ryan has engaged Gene Scalia, former US Secretary of Labor, and his team at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP to challenge together the FTC's new rule." [Ryan, [04/23/24](#)]

- **Eugene Scalia Served As U.S. Labor Secretary From September 2019 To January 2021 And Is The Son Of The Late Conservative Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia.** "Eugene Scalia was sworn in as Secretary of Labor on September 27, 2019. As Secretary, he oversaw the enforcement and

administration of more than 180 federal employment laws covering more than 150 million workers and 10 million workplaces. [...] He is the son of Maureen and Antonin Scalia, the late Supreme Court Justice." [U.S. Department of Labor, accessed [04/24/24](#)]

Allyson N. Ho Is Also A Partner At Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP, Who Is The Wife Of Current Fifth Circuit Judge James Ho And Was Seen As A "Replacement" For When He Was Appointed To Serve On The Fifth Circuit.

Allyson N. Ho Is A Partner At Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP. [Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP, accessed [02/15/24](#)]

- **Allyson Is The Wife of Fifth Circuit Judge James How And Joined Gibson Dunn In 2018 As A "Replacement" For James After His Appointment To Serve On The Fifth Circuit.** "Her arrival in the Dallas office also serves as a replacement to her husband James Ho, himself a respected appellate lawyer who was confirmed as a judge on the Fifth Circuit in December 2017." [Leaders League, [06/05/18](#)]

Allyson Ho Also Served As A Law Clerk For Former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor And Current Fifth Circuit Judge Jacques L. Wiener Jr.

According To Her Bio, She Also Previously Served As A Law Clerk To Former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor And A Law Clerk To Fifth Circuit Judge Jacques L. Wiener Jr. "Allyson has a distinguished record of experience at the highest levels of the federal government. She served as Special Assistant to President George W. Bush, Counselor to Attorney General John Ashcroft, and law clerk to Justice Sandra Day O'Connor of the U.S. Supreme Court and Judge Jacques L. Wiener Jr. of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit." [Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP, accessed [04/24/24](#)]

Ryan Founder, Chairman, And CEO G. Brint Ryan Served As The Chairman Of The Texas Association Of Business (TAB) When The Organization Partnered with The U.S. Chamber In September 2022 To Sue The CFPB Over Its Updated Examination Manual Enforcing Oversight Of Unfair, Deceptive, Or Abusive Acts Or Practices (UDAAP)—The Eastern District Of Texas Ultimately Sided With Industry, Ruling In September 2023 That The CFPB Overstepped Its Supervision Authority In Updating Its Examination Manual, Adding That The CFPB's Funding Structure Was Unconstitutional.

Ryan Founder, Chairman, And CEO G. Brint Ryan Served As The Chairman Of The Texas Association Of Business (TAB) From 2021 Until The End Of 2022, After Previously Serving As Treasurer From 2018 To 2020 And As An Executive Committee Member From 2007 To 2018.

Ryan Founder, Chairman, And CEO G. Brint Ryan Served As The Chairman Of The Texas Association Of Business From 2021 To 2023 After Previously Serving As Treasurer From 2018 To 2020 And As An Executive Committee Member From 2007 To 2018:

- Texas Association of Business
 - Chairman (2021–2023)
 - Treasurer (2018–2020)
 - Executive Committee (2007–2018)

[Ryan, accessed [04/24/24](#)]

- **Per A December 8, 2022 LinkedIn Post From The Texas Association Of Business, It Appears Ryan Stepped Down As Chairman At The End Of 2022, With Current Chair Massey Villarreal Succeeding Him In January 2023.** [LinkedIn, accessed [04/24/24](#)]

In September 2022, The U.S. Chamber, Alongside The Texas Association of Business And Other Trade Groups, Sued The CFPB Over Its Updated Examination Manual Enforcing Oversight Of Unfair, Deceptive, Or Abusive Acts Or Practices (UDAAP) Arguing Other Federal Regulators Are Granted These Powers By Congress And That The CFPB Had "Exceed[ed] Its Statutory Authority."

On September 28, 2022, The U.S. Chamber, Alongside The Texas Association of Business And Other Trade Groups, Filed A Lawsuit In The Eastern District Of Texas Challenging The CFPB's Changes To Its Examination Manual In A Move Industry Said "Exceed[ed] Its Statutory Authority." "The U.S. Chamber of Commerce today filed a lawsuit in the Eastern District of Texas with co-plaintiffs American Bankers Association, Consumer Bankers Association, Independent Bankers Association of Texas, Longview Chamber of Commerce, Texas Association of Business, and Texas Bankers Association against the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) for exceeding its statutory authority when amending its examination manual." [U.S. Chamber of Commerce, [09/28/22](#)]

- **The Chamber And Accompanying Trade Groups Alleged The CFPB Exceeded Its Statutory Authority When It Updated Its Examination Manual Over Regulating "Unfair, Deceptive, Or Abusive Acts Or Practices (UDAAP)," Claiming Other Federal Regulators Are Instead Granted These Powers.** "The U.S. Chamber and co-plaintiffs are challenging the CFPB's recent update to the Unfair, Deceptive, or Abusive Acts or Practices (UDAAP) section of its examination manual to include discrimination and in particular disparate impact. Congress has not given the CFPB the power to do so, as allegations of discrimination are handled by other agencies through statutes such as the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, the Fair Housing Act, and the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act. The failure by Congress to grant such authority raises a 'major questions' issue as recently decided by the Supreme Court." [U.S. Chamber of Commerce, [09/28/22](#)]

The Eastern District Of Texas Ultimately Sided With Industry, Ruling In September 2023 That The CFPB Overstepped Its Supervision Authority In Updating Its Examination Manual, Adding That The CFPB's Funding Structure Was Unconstitutional.

September 2023: The Eastern District Court Of Texas Ruled The CFPB "Acted Outside Its Authority Granted By Congress," Vacating The Manual Update On The Grounds That The CFPB's Funding Structure Was Unconstitutional. "The Eastern District of Texas ruled that the CFPB acted outside its authority granted by Congress when it updated its Supervision and Examination manual for financial institutions. The district court also ruled that the CFPB's funding mechanism was unconstitutional. The court vacated the manual update and prohibited the CFPB from pursuing any action against any Chamber members based on that update. Had it been allowed to stand, the CFPB's update would have created confusion in the banking sector, limiting its ability to provide needed services to businesses and consumers." [U.S. Chamber Litigation Tracker, accessed [04/08/24](#)]

G. Brint Ryan Is A Longtime Conservative Donor, Having Donated \$414,200 To The Republican National Committee, The National Republican Senatorial Committee, And The National Republican Congressional Committee Since 2010.

Since 2011, G. Brint Ryan Has Donated \$317,500 To The Republican National Committee.

G. Brint Ryan Has Donated \$317,500 To The Republican National Committee Since 2011:

Name	Employer	Recipient	Date	Amount
Ryan, George Brint Mr.	Ryan LLC	Republican National Committee	11/01/23	\$41,300
Ryan, George Brint Mr.	Ryan LLC	Republican National Committee	10/23/19	\$14,500
Ryan, George Brint Mr.	Ryan LLC	Republican National Committee	10/23/19	\$35,500
Ryan, George Brint Mr.	Ryan LLC	Republican National Committee	10/24/18	\$10,700
Ryan, George Brint Mr.	Ryan LLC	Republican National Committee	10/24/18	\$33,900
Ryan, George Brint Mr.	Ryan LLC	Republican National Committee	10/31/17	\$16,100
Ryan, George Brint Mr.	Ryan LLC	Republican National Committee	10/31/17	\$33,900
Ryan, George Brint Mr.	Ryan LLC	Republican National Committee	09/19/16	\$16,600
Ryan, George Brint Mr.	Ryan LLC	Republican National Committee	09/19/16	\$33,400
Ryan, George Brint Mr.	Ryan LLC	Republican National Committee	11/18/15	\$33,400
Ryan, George Brint Mr.	Ryan LLC	Republican National Committee	02/18/14	\$32,400
Ryan, George Brint Mr.	Ryan LLC	Republican National Committee	10/17/11	\$15,800
				TOTAL: \$317,500

[FEC, accessed [04/24/24](#)]

Since 2010, G. Brint Ryan Has Donated \$96,700 To The National Republican Senatorial Committee And The National Republican Congressional Committee.

G. Brint Ryan Has Donated \$61,200 To The National Republican Senatorial Committee Since 2010:

Name	Employer	Recipient	Date	Amount
-------------	-----------------	------------------	-------------	---------------

Ryan, George Brint Mr.	Ryan, Inc	National Republican Senatorial Committee	10/31/11	\$30,800
Ryan, George Brint Mr.	Ryan, Inc	National Republican Senatorial Committee	09/14/10	\$30,400
TOTAL:				\$61,200

[FEC, accessed [04/24/24](#)]

On March 27, 2019, G. Brint Ryan Donated \$35,500 To The National Republican Congressional Committee. [FEC, accessed [04/24/24](#)]

Brint Ryan And His Company, Ryan, LLC, Have Frequently Used Their Influence And Money To Impact Texas Policy And To Amplify Conservative Voices Within The State, Such As Paying \$100,000 To Donald Trump Jr. To Serve As The Featured Speaker At A University Of North Texas Event Marketed As A Space For Conservatives And Business Leaders To “Network While Raising Scholarship Money.”

In April 2017, Ryan, LLC Provided Testimony In Support Of A Bill “Requir[ing] County Tax Appraisers Who Testify In Court During High-Dollar Property Tax Disputes To Get Additional Certification” In A Texas House Ways And Means Committee Where Texas Rep. Drew Stringer Listened On, Who Had Been Hired By Ryan LLC Just Three Weeks Before.

April 2017: The Texas House Ways And Means Committee Held A Hearing To Discuss House Bill 2043, Which Would Have “Required County Tax Appraisers Who Testify In Court During High-Dollar Property Tax Disputes To Get Additional Certification,” Causing “Appraisal Districts To Spend More Money And Perhaps Settle On Terms Less Favorable To The County.” “In early April, in a committee room hidden in the recesses of the Texas Capitol, Representative Drew Springer was explaining a rather dense bit of legislation he had authored. House Bill 2043 would have required county tax appraisers who testify in court during high-dollar property tax disputes to get additional certification. As a result, it would have forced appraisal districts to spend more money and perhaps settle on terms less favorable to the county. If your eyes just glazed over, you’re likely not a corporate tax consultant.” [Texas Observer, [11/16/17](#)]

The Legislation Had The Backing Of Ryan, LLC While County Officials Called The Legislation “A Needless Financial Burden.” “County officials opposed the bill, calling it a needless financial burden, but the legislation had the backing of Ryan, LLC, a Dallas consulting firm that works to secure subsidies and tax breaks for its corporate clients. Ryan also helps companies challenge property tax assessments — a thriving trade in Texas, where property taxes are high and protests can yield big savings for business.” [Texas Observer, [11/16/17](#)]

During The Hearing, A “Ryan Representative Argued Before The House Ways And Means Committee That HB 2043 Would Simply Make The Process More Fair For Property Owners” As Texas Rep. Drew Stringer Listened On, Who Had Been Hired By The Company Just Three Weeks Prior. “At the hearing, a Ryan representative argued before the House Ways and Means Committee that HB 2043 would simply make the process more fair for property owners. Springer, who sits on the committee, listened quietly. He made no mention that, just three weeks before, Ryan had put him on the company payroll. Ryan, LLC, which raked in \$530 million in earnings last year, wrenches about \$2.5 billion from public coffers per year on behalf of

corporations. Its clients are among the most powerful companies in the world, including Exxon, Walmart, Verizon and Tyson.” [Texas Observer, [11/16/17](#)]

In April 2020, Ryan Founder, Chairman, And CEO Brint Ryan Was Appointed To Chair A “Task Force To Re-Start The Economy” Established By Texas Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick.

In April 2020, Texas Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick Announced The Establishment Of A “Task Force To Re-Start The Economy” To “Begin To Work On A Set Of Recommendations For Re-Starting The Economy.” “When Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick was first elected in 2014, he established a Business Advisory Council comprised of business leaders from a broad range of businesses around the state to provide him with input on a variety of issues. Today, the Lt. Governor announced that he has established a Task Force from his Business Advisory Council to begin to work on a set of recommendations for re-starting the economy, once President Trump and Governor Abbott announce that businesses can begin the re-opening process and Texans can go back to work.” [Office of Texas Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick, [04/07/20](#)]

- **HEADLINE: Lt. Gov. Patrick Appoints Business Task Force To Re-Start The Economy: Brint Ryan Will Chair** [Office of Texas Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick, [04/07/20](#)]

Brint Ryan, Who Chaired Lt. Gov. Patrick’s Advisory Board On Tax Policy, Was Appointed To Chair The Task Force. “Lt. Gov. Patrick has appointed Dallas businessman Brint Ryan, founder and CEO of Ryan International, to chair the Task Force. Ryan currently chairs Lt. Gov. Patrick’s Advisory Board on Tax Policy.” [Office of Texas Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick, [04/07/20](#)]

In October 2017, Ryan LLC Paid Donald Trump Jr.’s \$100,000 Speaking Fee To Serve As The Featured Speaker At A University Of North Texas Event Marketed As A Space For Conservatives And Business Leaders To “Network While Raising Scholarship Money.”

In October 2017, Donald Trump Jr. Was Scheduled To Be A Featured Speaker At A University Of North Texas Event Marketed As A Space For Conservatives And Business Leaders To “Network While Raising Scholarship Money.” “The president of the University of North Texas said he tried but failed to stop Donald Trump Jr. from giving a high-profile speech at a school lecture series later this month, according to emails he sent faculty members. [...] While many UNT speakers are brought to campus by and for students, the university has marketed Trump’s lecture on Oct. 24 to conservatives and business leaders as a place to network while raising scholarship money. Table sponsorships for the lecture series start at \$5,000 and go as high as \$100,000. Sponsorship payments are eligible for a federal tax deduction.” [Dallas Morning News, [10/09/17](#)]

Donald Trump Jr.’s \$100,000 Speaking Fee Was Paid For By Ryan LLC, Owned By Brint Ryan Who Had Been Identified At The Time As “Head Of The School’s Board Of Regents” And Had “Used Political And Business Connections To Land The Real Estate Executive As A Speaker.” “Trump’s \$100,000 speaking fee is coming from a tax advisory firm owned by Brint Ryan, according to UNT. Ryan, who is head of the school’s Board of Regents, used political and business connections to land the real estate executive as a speaker. A donor who has provided campaign cash for former Texas Gov. and current U.S. Energy Secretary Rick Perry, Sen. Ted Cruz and Gov. Greg Abbott, Ryan advised President Trump on tax reform issues, according to Politico.” [Dallas Morning News, [10/09/17](#)]