



## **Why Clerks Need to Approach Oversight Investigations Differently**

For House and Senate clerks and other committee administrative personnel, oversight investigations may require special attention, because they differ from other types of committee work in multiple ways. Those differences may affect committee functioning, staff work, reports, hearings, hearing records, and interactions with the media. Here are some reasons why committee administrative personnel may need to approach oversight investigations differently.

- Oversight investigations may generate multiple letters and document requests.
- Oversight investigations may produce a lot of documents requiring storage.
- Oversight investigations may generate multiple interviews, depositions, and transcripts.
- Oversight investigations may require committee votes on subpoenas.
- Oversight investigations may require surveys, site visits, or other unusual staff work.
- Oversight investigations may generate complex reports with dissenting views.
- Oversight hearings may last longer and generate followup hearings.
- Oversight hearings may have a lot of exhibits and charts.
- Oversight hearings may generate procedural disputes.
- Oversight hearings may require questions for the record or other post-hearing work.
- Oversight hearing records may be complex and take longer to complete.
- Oversight investigations may generate a lot of media calls and press attention.
- Oversight investigations may take longer to conclude and proceed at a more intense pace.
- Oversight investigations may cause partisan friction among staff and Members.

A well-prepared clerk can help minimize difficulties, facilitate cooperation, and encourage a civil and bipartisan environment for committee oversight investigations.