

We're sort of reactive, and so our job during the week of the convention is to stamp out the little fires that pop up here and there. We don't really have a role in how the convention goes forward, but we do make sure that everything goes forward as smoothly as possible. And what I'm really hoping for is that the week of the convention nothing will go wrong, and so I can just enjoy seeing the spectacle and hearing the speeches, and watching all the delegates and the people who come, and just sort of enjoy the process after working up to it for a year or so.

Well the typical week is completely not typical; we sort of are reactive, I guess we do whatever needs to be done to support everybody in the office. So one week we might work on just drafting up a contract that needs to be done, and the next week maybe we're working with a hotel that has an issue with the contract that they signed, or we're working on a personnel matter, or sometimes one of my deputies does the regular ethics briefings so that everybody knows what they can and can't do in terms of the gifts and the rules that we've established for the committee. So it really varies from week to week, I mean sometimes it's monotonous, just the same old same old and then other times it's every day something new and different is coming in the door. So it makes it fun that way; you're not just doing the same thing all day every day.

I really, truly believe in our democratic ideals that we have here in our United States, and I believe that it's everyone's responsibility to give back to your government. I mean we get so much out of the way that our country is run and what it does for people, and for everyone who's here, and I think you owe it to your country to serve it. And one of the best ways to do that is to get involved in the election system and in politics, and at the convention if you wanted to come and be at the convention there's a real sense that you are making things the way they should be when you participate in it, and it's like voting. Everyone says, well, it's a privilege; well I actually think of it as a right, I mean it's something that you should do because it's not optional, you actually can have such a huge impact on what happens in this country by who you vote for, and no matter who that is, or no matter how that works out, by participating in it you're showing that you believe in the system and you want it to work and that you think it's important and I think even kids who aren't yet of voting age need to educate themselves about how the process works and sort of what happens when you participate in the process and what happens when you don't participate in the process. Because that will, I think, have a big influence on them when they get to the age when they realize they can make a difference and participate and be

involved in a way that means something. So I just, I just think it's part of your duty as a citizen, as a person who lives here in the United States to give back, and that's why I would recommend everybody get involved in some way in some civic activity.

From a corporate point of view, which is that they can make independent expenditures but they can't do direct contributions to candidates, and the independent expenditures are ostensibly those that are done without any coordination with the campaign or the candidate. And so there's no corrupting influence, which was the basis on which the restrictions on corporate spending were based.

Well it's in a lot of turmoil right now. I'm sure you've probably heard about the Supreme Court case a couple years ago, the *Citizens United* case, which sort of changed the rules of the road tremendously. And this is the first presidential election that has occurred since that ruling, and so it's been interesting to watch how people are interpreting the court case, and what they see as the leeway they now have to be able to spend more money and do things that everyone thought for years and years and years was prohibited. And so actually it's going to be very interesting to see what happens, because it's a Supreme Court case, it's a little hard to overturn a Constitutional case.

We draft the contracts, we negotiate them, we make sure they're enforced properly. Sometimes we do what are called RFPs which are Requests for Proposals where we sort of send out a list of "here's what we need, what can you do for us" and people bid on that and come back and tell us what they can do and how much it would cost. So there's a lot of that type of activity, we spend huge amounts of time doing that.

We've done them on the housing provider, which is the organization that does the reservations for the housing for all the delegates and people we come to the convention. We've done them on our website, we've done them on buses, as we have a transportation system for the delegates and we have something like 250 buses to make sure everybody can get where they want to go and so we negotiated that contract and did an RFP on that. So it's been busy on a pleasant level, it hasn't been overwhelming yet. It's been really interesting to see all of it come together from the planning stages to now to the reality where people are actually doing the things we've been planning for so many months.