

# AMCHAM NEWS



## American Chamber of Commerce in New Zealand

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Volume 15 Issue 7

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December 2016

### Where to now for TPP?

From InsideTrade

President-elect Donald Trump, in laying out the legislative priorities for his administration's first 100 days in office, pledged on Monday to withdraw on day one from the Trans-Pacific Partnership – which he called “a potential disaster for our country” – and vowed instead to pursue “fair, bilateral” trade agreements.

President-elect Trump's pick to lead the Commerce Department, Wilbur Ross said “TPP is not going to happen,” Ross told Fox Business News on Nov. 30, after he was announced as Trump's intended nominee. “It isn't a question of pulling out TPP; TPP does not exist. It's a fiction of people's imagination at this point.”

However Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch (R-UT) this week doubled down on his claim that the Trans-Pacific Partnership can be ratified under President Trump even if it begins as a bilateral deal with Japan, maintaining that the president-elect will reconsider his stance once he realizes the consequences of withdrawal.

New Zealand wants to be near the front of the 'queue' for a bilateral deal with the U.S. The prime minister says U.S. “isn't an island” and “can't just sit there and say it's not going to trade with the rest of the world.”

The planned post-election APCAC Washington Doorknock was scrapped and it's important for everyone in the US to step back, assess the new political environment and policy priorities of new administration.

The US Chamber urges the other TPP governments to give the new administration some time and room, and do not take rash actions on TPP. At same time, they feel that it's important for us all to continue talking about the importance of US economic engagement in the region and trade as a means to support growth, jobs and regional stability.

### From Export NZ

[TPP Dead?](#)

[Agricultural trade envoy convinced 'something will come out of TPP'](#)

### US NZ Relations just keep getting better

2016 has been another significant in US NZ relations. Earlier in the year we had the visit by US Vice President Joe Biden and more recently the visit of US Secretary of State John Kerry. On top of this was the historic visit by the USS Sampson, the first US naval ship to visit New Zealand after 33 years and the role it played in the recovery effort after the Kaikoura earthquake.



[Key: NZ and US 'best of friends'](#)

The second edition, updated and expanded of “New Zealand United States Relations” by Stephen Hoadley was recently launched at a NZ US Council reception. Stephen is Associate Professor of Politics and International Relations at the University of Auckland. For copies contact [s.hoadley@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:s.hoadley@auckland.ac.nz)

### The 2016 ExportNZ DHL Export Barometer show Kiwi exporters signal a good year and confidence reigns for 2017

- Majority of businesses expect international orders to increase over next 12 months
- Online commerce strong with almost three-quarters (73%) of exporters generating orders online
- One-third of exporters highlight negative impacts if the GST threshold for imported goods is lowered

(Continued on page 2)

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*Export Barometer (Continued from page 1)*

The 2016 ExportNZ DHL Export Barometer released today shows Kiwi exporters are feeling confident and expecting orders to increase in the next twelve months, despite the uncertainties in the UK and US.

The research shows that overall 2016 has been a good year, with just over half (52%) of exporters achieving an increase in international orders. [Read more.](#)

## 20 American tech hubs nipping at Silicon Valley's heels

By most accounts, Silicon Valley remains the country's premier destination for tech startups, but it's hardly the only region where technology entrepreneurs can thrive. From Portland's Silicon Forest to Miami's Silicon Beach, cities and towns across America are carving out... [Read more](#)

## Foreign Direct Investment in New Zealand: Trends and Insights into OIO decision summaries – KPMG

KPMG has analysed trends in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) from 2013 to 2015, based on Overseas Investment Office (OIO) approvals for the past three years. The latest analysis shows that New Zealand's strongly-growing economy is providing an attractive environment for FDI.

Key findings on the analysis include:

- The United States and Canada were New Zealand's most significant source of FDI over the last three years, based on gross consideration data provided by the OIO; followed closely by the Australia, China and Singapore.
- Singapore accounted for 20% of FDI in 2015, measured by gross consideration, making Singapore the largest source of FDI in 2015.
- Investment in New Zealand continues to be broad-based across a range of sectors. However, when evaluated on a country-by-country basis, Asian countries have generally had a narrower investment focus on dairy, food and the waste management sectors. By contrast, the traditional investment markets of the United States and Australia have a much broader base of investment, perhaps reflecting the maturity of their economies and their investment networks.

[Read more](#)

## TOURISM

**Visit Anchorage** has appointed Canuckiwi Ltd as its international representation firm in Australia and New Zealand, effective 1 January, 2017.

## TRADE, BUSINESS and INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### Commercial News USA

The **Nov/Dec 2016** issue of Export USA, the official export promotion magazine of the U.S. Department of Commerce, is currently online at <http://exusa.think.global/112016/>

### International Buyer Program

**Trade Show Schedule 1 Jan to 31 Dec 2017 – for details and support contact Janet Coulthart:** [janet.coulthart@trade.gov](mailto:janet.coulthart@trade.gov)

### The [Discover Global Markets – Advanced Manufacturing](#) conference

To be held in February 2017, Scottsdale, AZ (1 hour flight from LAX).

This is a great opportunity to meet innovators and manufacturers from around the world, as well as make connections to help take your manufacturing processes to the cutting edge.

Please contact me for further details and registration assistance. We are also seeking speakers on various specialist panels; invited speakers will receive some assistance with accommodation, meals and conference registration. Dhiraj Mani, Commercial Specialist United States Consulate General, Office: 64 (9) 3032724 x 2867, Cell: 64 (21) 2235406, Email [dhiraj.mani@trade.gov](mailto:dhiraj.mani@trade.gov)

### 2017 SelectUSA Summit - June 18-20, 2017, at the Gaylord Hotel - National Harbor, MD.

The United States welcomes investors of all sizes, including established multinationals, small or medium-sized enterprises, and high-growth startups. The SelectUSA Investment Summit brings the diversity of the United States together under one roof – enabling any business to find the people, the resources, and the market it needs to be successful. June 18-20, 2017, at the Gaylord Hotel - National Harbor, MD.

The agenda will be packed with high-profile speakers and practical, actionable information -- and we will bring you the latest updates right here. [www.selectusa.gov](http://www.selectusa.gov)

### High-earning US brands seek local partners

Bill Gabbard will be in New Zealand from 6-12 January 2017 seeking new licensees for some top US brands. The Executive Vice President of



Supporting AmCham

*Seeking local partners (Continued from page 2)*

Edwards Global Services, Bill has assisted franchise systems from many sectors including QSR, casual dining, packaging, logistics and children's learning, and his work has led to the awarding over 60 master licenses for numerous franchise firms around the world.

Some of his brands include Navis Pack and Ship Centers, Cold Stone Creamery, Arby's, The Melting Pot, Grimaldi's Pizzeria, Fuddrucker's Hamburgers, among others.

To book a meeting with Bill Gabbard, contact Stewart Germann [via email](#) or phone 0-9-308 9925.

## **Māori tech companies connect with US market**

A group of Māori technology business owners and investors has headed to the US to build deeper links into the market, under the banner of Te Tira Toi Whakangao - the Māori Tech and Investment US Programme. RNZ's Te Manu Korihi reporter Aaron Smale talked to the outbound group about the trip and what it means to them. [Read more](#)

## **From ExportX**

[Amazon's Black Friday Features New Zealand Products](#)

Amazon is featuring New Zealand products as part of its Black Friday promotions in the USA. Black Friday, the day after U.S. Thanksgiving, ... [Read on](#)

## **Matson announce new service**

Matson has announced a new service that links NZ with Honolulu and the US West Coast. The service runs every 28 days and is direct from Auckland to Honolulu with only one stop in Suva en route to Honolulu. Then from there on our vessels go to Seattle, Long Beach, Oakland and Alaska. So a very quick transit to HNL from AKL and to US WC. [www.matson.com](http://www.matson.com)

## **2017 Asia Pacific Council of American Chambers of Commerce Business Summit on 19-22 April 2017**

The Largest Business Summit Ever in Guangzhou with 22 Asia Pacific Economies

Annual Revenues of Companies Committed to Attending So Far Exceeds 600 Billion U.S. Dollars

More information and sponsorship opportunities, please contact: Ms. Wing Xian, Ms. Joyce Hu [wxian@amcham-southchina.org](mailto:wxian@amcham-southchina.org) / [jhu@amcham-southchina.org](mailto:jhu@amcham-southchina.org) or see [www.amcham-southchina.org](http://www.amcham-southchina.org)

## **United Airlines Signs Three-Year Sponsorship Agreement with American Chamber of Commerce New Zealand**

*United becomes the naming rights sponsor of key American Chamber of Commerce events in New Zealand*



The American Chamber of Commerce New Zealand (AmCham) today announced that United Airlines has signed a three-year sponsorship agreement that will see the airline become the official airline partner of its New Zealand division and naming rights sponsor of its key events.

Key events included in the sponsorship include the 'United Airlines AmCham Ambrose Golf Tournament'; 'United Airlines AmCham Annual Awards' and 'United Airlines AmCham New Zealand Scholarship Fund'.

Mike Hearn, Executive Director of American Chamber of Commerce in New Zealand, said "We are extremely pleased to announce United Airlines as our official airline partner in New Zealand. Having United's support in New Zealand will mean that we can continue to create events that bring the best in business from either side of the Pacific together to create new trade and investment opportunities and to celebrate the relationship between our two markets."

With almost 185,000 New Zealanders visiting the U.S. in the twelve months to September 2016, and around 270,000 Americans visiting New Zealand during the same period, business and tourism links have never been stronger," commented Julie Reid, United's Director of Australia and New Zealand, Sales. "This sponsorship reflects our commitment to the local market and helps foster even greater ties between New Zealand and the U.S.", Reid added. The sponsorship takes effect from December 1, 2016 with the first event, the 2017 United Airlines - AmCham Ambrose Golf Tournament, taking place on February 17.

### **United in New Zealand**

United currently serves Auckland with daily nonstop flights to San Francisco, with onward connections to more than 260 destinations, including almost 50 destinations that can be reached from New Zealand with a single stop. Locally, United works closely with its Star Alliance partner Air New Zealand, through a joint venture revenue-sharing agreement that enables the two carriers to work together on sales and marketing efforts in order to offer their mutual customers more travel options between New Zealand and the mainland U.S.

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## SUCCESS STORIES WITH USA

[Bill Gates lends a hand to Massey University](#)

[NZ Jerky in over 1000 American stores in just 18 months](#)

[Groundbreaking Ceremony of Hawaiki Cable Landing Station](#)

[Pushpay to buy church-app business](#)

[Challenging year ahead on earthquake damage for Foley Wines](#)

[Pacific Edge first-half loss widens on push for US growth](#)

[Mark Sagar's Baby X technology spin-out gains US\\$7.5 million in venture capital funding](#)

[Air New Zealand signs significant new components contract](#)

[General Cable plans to close NZ operations](#)

[The Instillery inks partnership deal with Cloudability](#)

[Ingram Micro NZ appointed distributor for Belkin NZ](#)

[Powerco opts for Zetron radcoms systems](#)

[Tradeshift expands into Australia and New Zealand](#)

[Maori tech and investment US programme underway](#)

[Kiwi fitness app at the top of international field](#)

[Xero bets on Denver to develop US business](#)

## EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

17<sup>th</sup> Jan Farewell reception for Ambassador Mark Gilbert & Nancy Gilbert, Auckland

17<sup>th</sup> Feb AmCham Ambrose Golf Tournament at the Grange Golf Club

8<sup>th</sup> March Wellington Member and Government officials reception

## Inaugural Women in Business event



Ada Echetebe, Jo Doolan, Sarah Noonan, Helen Robinson, Jennifer Caldwell of Buddle Findlay

AmCham's inaugural Women in Business was recently held with Helen Robinson, Joanna Doolan & Sarah Noonan in an arm chair interview format, with Future AmCham Committee chair Ada Echetebe acting as moderator. Those attending gained a valuable insight from these influential business leaders.

AmCham will be holding quarterly Women in Business events in 2017 as well as regular AmCham Women's Chapter member events.

AmCham would like to thank Buddle Findlay for hosting the event.

**BUDDLE  
FINDLAY**

## MEMBER NEWS

### New look AmCham website – [www.amcham.co.nz](http://www.amcham.co.nz)

The AmCham website has undergone a transformation to the digital and mobile age. The site now include our Twitter and RSS feeds on TPP.

**We ask all members to spend a minute or two checking that their online profiles are update. To log in use your email address and if you have forgotten your password hit forgotten password and a new one will be sent.**

**Don't forget to follow us on Twitter @AmchamNZ**

### New Members

**Confide Ltd, Wellington – Paul Grover, Commercial Director** -Confide is New Zealand's Premier Security Assessment company for the Payment Card Industry. We work to ensure businesses understand their information security and privacy obligations from a legal and market based perspective, through the use of privacy impact assessments, architecture and design reviews and security audits. Based in New Zealand, we have a Global client register and can assist you with your compliance needs anywhere in the world. [www.confide.co.nz](http://www.confide.co.nz)

**Loosafe Ltd, Auckland – Mona Masouminia, Director** - authorised reseller of Brill Hygienic products in NZ & Australia. The Brill hands free electronic seat is designed to make it as easy as possible to keep a clean and sanitary toilet. This is done by changing toilet seat covers automatically. The Brill sanitary toilet seats are designed to change toilet seat covers automatically after a hand is waved in front of a wall mounted, hands free sensor or when a green button is pressed by the user. [www.loosafe.biz](http://www.loosafe.biz)

**People on the move:**

**Romie Littrell** has left AUT and is moving to Austin, TX. AmCham would like to thank Romie for all his support over the last 15 years.

**Places available for EY Darden Programme**

EY are offering seeking members who would be interested in their Darden Programme. It is a mini MBA programme where they bring the faculty from the Darden Business School University of Virginia to NZ and it is focussed on Economics, Strategy, Entrepreneurship and leadership.

The teaching is via case studies and is very NZ centric for example we teach an Air NZ case study and have the Chair of the Board come down and share their insights on Air NZ also we cover Zespri and the crisis they went through and have Plant and Food and Zespri executives share their insights.

The way the groups work together and the learnings are transformational in helping executives reach new levels of energy, focus and support networks both within Government and within other industries. The alumni is now close to 1500 and we have ongoing networking events and master classes so the learning is not just a one off experience. The time spend on the course also is credited towards a Darden issued qualification and the participants have another four years to get the remaining credits to complete this. The cost is \$19,500 plus GST for the two weeks and this includes accommodation, food etc.

The average age on the course is late forties however some of very senior executives others are much younger so there is a huge variation in experience and backgrounds. Those who attend may have a PHD others will have got to a very senior level with no formal training however the learning style means everyone contributes and is valued. To apply or get more info contact Jo Doolan, email: [joanna.doolan@nz.ey.com](mailto:joanna.doolan@nz.ey.com) or Tel 027-493-5627

**Seeking work**

**Smitha Shanbhag** – was the International Trade Advisor at the Auckland Chamber of Commerce from December 2014 to September 2016. Prior to this Smitha managed market entry into a new and complex international market for a New Zealand company manufacturing and exporting high-end lighting products. Armed with an innate passion for trade across borders and a deep interest in helping companies grow their capabilities, she is on the lookout for her next role. Smitha has an Executive MBA from Auckland University and looks forward to exploring new opportunities. Email; [smithashanbhag@gmail.com](mailto:smithashanbhag@gmail.com) Mobile; (+64) 21 901 592

**Stableford Golf Tournament**

The AmCham Stableford Golf Tournament was held at the Grange Golf Club on 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov. The winners were:

- US Embassy Trophy – Senior Grade – Tomas Ribero**
- AIG Trophy – Intermediate Grade – Murray McCallum**
- 3M Trophy – Junior Grade – Duane Eagle**
- Non handicap Winner – Tyler Capson**



Tomas Ribero



Murray McCallum



Duane Eagle



Tyler Capson

- Best Team Score – Eagle Technology**
- Nearest the Pin – Chris Kennings**
- Longest Drive – Murray McCallum**

- Our thanks to Rosebank Business Association – Mike Gibson for sponsoring a hole**
- Eagle Technology – Gary Langford/Duane Eagle for sponsoring longest drive**
- Bayleys St Heliers – Murray Wallace for sponsoring nearest the pin**



**Prize donors**

- Hamburg Sud – Scott Parker**
- Toll Global Forwarding – Geoff Seward**



Also our thanks to the team at the Grange Golf Club for making us so welcome.



**THE AMCHAM OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FOR THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS FROM 16 DECEMBER UNTIL MONDAY 16TH JANUARY 2017.**



**WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL OUR MEMBERS FOR THEIR SUPPORT DURING 2016 AND WISH YOU ALL A VERY MERRY AND SAFE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.**

## BUSINESS TRAVEL & TRAVEL NEWS

News, views and information for Amcham business travellers from **Grant Bevin**, Managing Director Business World Travel.

Business World Travel is a member of GlobalStar Travel Management

**Special notice to all travellers:** Travellers departing Auckland are reminded to target an **advance check-in of 90 minutes for Domestic and 3 hours for International flights** (all classes of travel). If you miss your flight you will usually lose your own or your employers money. Its peak season but exacerbated by the unacceptable and unpredictable levels of traffic congestion getting to Auckland airport (not to mention from), the inefficient self-serve baggage system in the Domestic terminal and the extensive security lines in both terminals.

As far as you our Travellers are concerned it is business as usual when flying the joint **American Airlines and Qantas** flight Auckland to Los Angeles, despite the US Department of Transport declining the airlines' application to renew their revenue share arrangement on flights between Australia/New Zealand and the US. As Travellers you won't detect any changes as Qantas will now change to a 'code-share' on the American Airlines flights from Auckland or Sydney to Los Angeles. This means that they each keep their own revenue from the seats sold individually on the one aircraft. The converse situation applies on the Qantas aircraft via Sydney/Melbourne/Brisbane to Honolulu/San Francisco/Los Angeles/Dallas and New York where AA has a code share. Without the benefit of any balanced background we dismiss any arguments around anti-competitive behaviour. In this instance we think the decision seems odd given that Air New Zealand/United and Virgin/Delta have these revenue share kind of arrangements to the US. **American Airlines** Management have met with BWT and confirmed their commitment to the New Zealand route; they are very happy with their very full flights from Auckland – thank you!

**BWT has flown Hawaiian Airlines** new Italian designed Poltrona Frau leather-clad Business Class seats which convert into 20.5 inch-wide beds in a 2-2-2 face-forward layout. This new lie flat product is excellent. The Business Class suite is being rolled out across the 20+ Hawaiian Airbus A330 network and by February should also feature on the 11 hour New York JFK to Honolulu flight connecting to Auckland, giving Hawaiian a new group of discerning business traveller customers, many of whom may even want to extend the short Honolulu transit into a day or three!

BWT clients are sorted but we appreciate that some of you have booked your **Canadian ski holiday** next month through alternative sources. A reminder to New Zealand passport holders travelling to **Canada** that an electronic visa waiver must now be applied for in advance of travel, a system similar to entry into the US. Keep in mind that if entering Canada through the US you need a US ESTA and a Canadian ESTA. Naturally if you booked with us we would handle all of this detail for you. We have a lot of global skiers working in our team, so maybe next time you'd like us to smooth the way for you're your next North American ski holiday?

**Travel better!** At ATP/Business World Travel we're a member of the prestigious US-based Virtuoso, an invited group of the world's leading travel agents. There are just four of us in New Zealand. What does this mean for you? For your leisure or business travel, at a range of resorts you'll receive both early and late check-out where available, breakfast daily and at most hotels a US\$100 bar, restaurant or spa credit – plus the subtle recognition from the hotel of being a Virtuoso traveller. All of this at the best available rate of the day – usually better than your corporate rate and the same as from the hotel direct or any of the online travel agent colleagues such as Webjet, Expedia or Bookings.com. Take a look at [www.virtuoso.com](http://www.virtuoso.com) to really see how you'll travel better in 2017. If you're a frequent traveller you need to be with one of our trusted Virtuoso travel advisors here at BWT. Phone us anytime to discuss your annual travel plans.

### Dates to watch

**Trade shows** continue to be the easiest way to do business – all of your industry sector from around the world will be in one location. The US now hosts a growing number of more international events. You can buy or sell your product or service, check innovation or benchmark your own product against the competition before launching, or view the range of choices for any new large scale equipment or machinery for your business. At BWT we have the hotel room allocations and can assist with the International Buyers Programmes where these apply. Here are some of the Q1 2017 events that we send our travellers to.

05-08.01.17	CES – Consumer Electronics Show	Las Vegas
10-12.01.17	Outdoor Retailer – sports equipment, fashion	Salt Lake City
17-20.01.17	WOC – World of Concrete	Las Vegas
17-22.01.17	Florida RV Supershow	Tampa
20-22.01.17	ISS – Imprinted Sportswear Show	Long Beach
30.01.- 02.02.17	NY Fashion Week – Menswear	New York
31.01.-02.02.17	SPIE-BIOS Expo – Biomedical/Bio-photronics	San Francisco
09-17.02.17	NY Fashion Week – Womenswear	New York
21-23.02.17	MAGIC-International Fashion Exhibition	Las Vegas
07-11.03.17	ConExpo-CON/AGG – Construction equipment	Las Vegas
18-21.03.17	International Home & Housewares	Chicago
28-30.03.17	GlobalShop – Store fixtures, visual merchandising, retail operations	Las Vegas

Thank you Amcham members for your business in 2016! It is valued and appreciated.

Check out our website at [www.bwt.co.nz](http://www.bwt.co.nz)

Reviewing your Corporate Travel? Call our Team:

Business World Travel Wellington 04-470 6044

Grant Bevin Business World Travel Auckland 09-529 3700 [gbevin@bwt.co.nz](mailto:gbevin@bwt.co.nz)



## LEGAL ISSUES

**Norris Echetebe Law** – New Zealand's Only Full-Service American Law Firm

In partnership with the AmCham NZ, our objective is to provide AmCham NZ members with information on the complex US legal landscape, to promote US-NZ business relationships, and to assist NZ businesses expanding into the lucrative US markets. In our monthly column, we write about legal issues which we deal with in our representation of NZ businesses doing business in and with the US. However, we are also open to suggestions on topics about which members are interested in learning. So, please feel free to email us with your comments, questions and any suggested topics at [info@nz-uslegal.co.nz](mailto:info@nz-uslegal.co.nz).

### CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTIONS

President-elect Donald Trump's victory in November shocked the world, to the delight of some and the disappointment of others. Whatever one's political leanings, no one can dispute that it was a historic and unprecedented victory that also highlighted the idiosyncrasies of the United States presidential election system and the electoral college. President-elect Trump's stunning triumph overshadows by a very important fact-- the fact that the Republican Party is now dominant in both the state and federal governments.

This win for the Republican Party means that the Republican Party now holds dominance in 32 state legislatures (33 if you count Nebraska which has a single house "non-partisan" legislature) and there are 33 states with Republican governors. They have 17 states that have veto-proof majorities in both houses of the state legislatures. Democrats only have a majority in 12 states. Republican dominance at the state level is significant for many reasons. Most interestingly, the Republicans are a single state legislature shy of being able to convene a Constitutional Convention.

Article V of the US Constitution governs the procedure for amending the Constitution. A Constitutional Amendment may be proposed either a 2/3rds majority vote of both Houses of Congress or by a 2/3rds majority vote of the state legislatures. When undertaken by the state legislatures, Article V requires a petition of 2/3rds of the state legislatures to Congress which mandates that the Congress convene a "Constitutional Convention".

Once the Constitutional Convention is convened, the proposed amendment to the US Constitution is debated and then a final draft of the amendment is confirmed. When undertaken by Congress, Congress then drafts the amendment. Once the draft amendment is approved by either Congress or the Constitutional Convention, it is then put to a vote of the state legislatures. The proposed amendment can only be ratified by a vote of 3/4ths of the state legislatures. Interestingly, in its entire history, a US Constitutional Amendment has never been proposed through a Constitutional Convention.

Constitutional Amendments are a hot topic of conversation amongst Republicans these days for a few reasons:

The first, for hot button social issues such as abortion and gay marriage, a Constitutional Amendment may be used to overturn the US Supreme Court, whose decisions in both *Roe v. Wade* and *Obergefell v. Hodges* set precedent on both issues. However, with control of Congress and the Executive Branch, Republicans assume that they can place one to two Justices on the Supreme Court and overturn or limit these rulings through judicial decision rather than a Constitutional Amendment.

The second and more practical reason is that the Republicans have been pushing for several structural/substantive changes to the Constitution, such as term limits for Congress and a balanced budget amendment that would impose "a cap limiting spending to the appropriate historical average percentage of our nation's gross domestic product while requiring a super-majority for any tax increase, with exceptions only for war or legitimate emergencies." (From the 2016 Republican Party Platform).

The structural changes on term limits and spending caps/tax increases are changes that can only take place through a Constitutional Amendment and have been on the Republican Platform, in one form or another, since the 1980s.

Realistically, it would be surprising if a Constitutional Convention was called. While the possibility is there, the likelihood is low. It is more likely that these issues will be addressed in Congress through potential amendments or mere legislation and through Supreme Court Justice nominations. Of course, this year is one which has demonstrated that anything is possible in the world of law and politics.

- Zachary D. Norris, JD, LL.M. and Ada Echetebe, JD, LL.M.

\*This article is for general informational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice, nor should it be construed as constituting any legal advice from Norris Echetebe Law or any of its affiliated lawyers. For specific analysis of your US legal issues, please contact the attorneys at Norris Echetebe Law at +64 (0)9-889-2602 or visit us on the web at <http://nz-uslegal.co.nz/>.



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## New Members Reception



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Curious Films



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Wrestler

