The Senate and House are not in session.

Legislative and Related News

*The Hill* reports that although the President has signed a continuing resolution until December 21st, the parties remain in a stalemate over funding for the President’s border wall. [Trump signs stopgap spending bill, averting shutdown](http://www.thehill.com/press-room/356425-trump-signs-stopgap-spending-bill-averting-shutdown)

*Bloomberg* reports on a legislative proposal that would ban lawmakers from trading any stocks. The article notes that Congress already toughened the rules on insider trading when it passed the STOCK Act. [A Democratic Proposal Would Ban Lawmakers From Trading Any Stocks at All](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/democratic-proposal-ban-lawmakers-trading-stocks_us_5be8c1d7e4b085e5ee06382c)

Executive Branch Ethics and Related News

*The Washington Post* reports that Scott Pruitt received $50,000 for his legal defense fund from a GOP donor. The article reports that EPA officials noted on his financial disclosure form that Pruitt had not sought ethics advice before accepting the donation. [Billionaire GOP donor gave Scott Pruitt $50,000 for legal expenses](http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/dc-metropolitan/billionaire-gop-donor-gave-scott-pruitt-50-000-for-legal-expenses/2018/12/07/6636f9ff-f80f-11e8-8b9a-d0756095c0f5_story.html)

*CBS News* reports that Nancy Pelosi and other top Democratic legislators are demanding an in-person briefing with the Justice Department’s DAEO about any guidance given to Acting AG Matthew Whitaker. [Democrats demand ethics meeting on Acting AG Matthew Whitaker’s oversight of Mueller probe](http://www.cbsnews.com/news/democrats-demand-ethics-meeting-on-acting-ag-matthew-whitaker-s-oversight-of-mueller-probe/)

*Law & Crime* reports on whether a past political contribution is evidence that a federal official has a “conflict of interest.” [“Know Who Else Donated to Clinton?” Fmr Gov’t Ethics Director Throws Trump’s ‘Angry Democrats’ Complaint In His Face](http://www.lawandcrimeno.com/2018/12/07/know-who-else-donated-to-clinton-frmr-govts-ethics-director-throws-trumps-angry-democrats-complaint-in-his-face/)

Next Scheduled Recess:
- **House**: Dec. 14 - Jan. 2
- **Senate**: Dec. 17 - Jan. 2