



Branching out: Dan Todd

AT THE BAR

Dan Todd

Dan Todd, the former senior health policy counsel for Senate Finance Committee ranking member Orrin Hatch, is hanging out his shingle. “I always knew that, because of family commitments, I would be somewhat term-limited,” he says.

Todd’s new venture, Todd Strategy, will draw on his experience in the legislative branch and at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, where he served as a special assistant during the implementation of the 2003 Medicare Modernization Act.

“In the health care space, you’re dealing with astronomically big numbers and very intelligent people,” he says. “There are so many different areas of expertise that it’s damn near impossible to be an expert in the whole thing.”

Todd, 33, is originally from outside of Atlantic City, N.J. He attended Georgetown University and “never really went home,” he says. Before joining the Finance Committee staff, he worked as senior director of health policy at EMD Serono and as director of global government affairs at Amgen. Along the way, Todd earned a law degree at Catholic University.

On Capitol Hill, Todd helped craft the 2012 American Taxpayer Relief Act and the 2014 Protecting Access to Medicare Act. His wife, Laurel Todd, is a former cubicle neighbor who also works on health policy. “We try to avoid talking Medicare policy with our two daughters,” he says.

Christopher Snow Hopkins

TRADE ASSOCIATIONS

Brian Weiss

Brian Weiss, the new vice president for public affairs and communications at TechNet, was an undergraduate at the University of Pennsylvania when President Clinton made a stop in Philadelphia during his 1996 reelection campaign. Then a budding politico, Weiss volunteered to chauffeur television and wire-service reporters to the event.

“I remember speeding through these tiny narrow streets, trying to keep up with the presidential limousine,” says Weiss, who was most recently communications director for Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif. “That was a formative experience for me.”

At TechNet, Weiss will work alongside President and CEO Linda Moore, whom Weiss knows from their days as aides to then-Sen. Evan Bayh, D-Ind. A few days after Weiss started his new job, the pair collaborated on the organization’s annual fly-in, during which emissaries from 23 major tech companies met with Vice President Joe Biden, senior White House staffers, and representatives of the Senate and House leadership.

TechNet, which was created in 1997, is a network of CEOs and senior executives from some 60 established and start-up companies, including Microsoft, Cisco, Google, Oracle, Facebook, and Apple. Its aim is to bring together policymakers and tech titans to “promote a technology-led innovation ecosystem.”

Weiss, 38, was raised in Southampton, Pa., outside Philadelphia, and he tracked presidential and congressional campaigns even before he could vote. After graduating from Penn, Weiss served as press secretary under then-Sen. John Breaux, D-La., before moving to New York to work at IMG Worldwide, a global sports-management and entertainment company, and Warner Music Group. Weiss returned to Washington as a senior communications aide under Bayh.

A former president of the Senate Press Secretaries Association, Weiss is married to novelist Aimee Agresti, a former *Us Weekly* staff writer who is the author of a trilogy for young-adult readers.

C.S.H.

LOBBY SHOPS

Toby Moffett

According to former Rep. Toby Moffett, lobbying is now a global enterprise.

“The secret is out: Washington is not the political center of gravity it once was,” says the Democrat, who has joined Mayer Brown

as a senior adviser in the firm's government and global-trade group.

"Why would people with budgets be anxious to hire people in Washington if there's not much happening here? The paralysis in the Congress—particularly in the House—is something that has led me and my team to look overseas for much of our business. I believe that there's more money to be made for the firm and more good to be done by taking people to Rabat and Nairobi and Lagos than to Rayburn and Dirksen."

It was this changing dynamic that led the former four-term congressman from Connecticut to Mayer Brown, which has five offices in Europe, eight in Asia, and two in South America.

"I was not inclined to join a big entity and certainly not to join a law firm," Moffett admits. "But this firm's global platform was something that I just couldn't pass up."

He brings with him many of his top clients, including the Kingdom of Morocco, and will focus on drumming up business overseas.

He says he was drawn to Mayer Brown by the opportunity to work with lawyers such as former Commerce Secretary Mickey Kantor; former Ambassador to Romania Mark Gitenstein; and Andrew J. Pincus, a former general counsel at the Commerce Department.

Moffett, who usually works through the weekend, is a spry and animated 69. "I'm not tired in the least," he says. "I continue to work long, long hours."

Born in Holyoke, Mass., Moffett holds a bachelor's degree from Syracuse University and a master's degree from Boston College.

After serving as a staff assistant to then-Sen. Walter Mondale, D-Minn., he was elected to Congress in 1974. One of his interns at the time was future Rep. David McIntosh, R-Ind.—now a partner at Mayer Brown.

After an unsuccessful senatorial bid in 1982, Moffett worked as a television news anchorman at the NBC affiliate in West Hartford, Conn., and then returned to Washington in the early 1990s as a consultant.

Under the banner of the Moffett Group, he has represented Kenya, Malawi, and the Republic of the Congo, as well as African-based companies such as Virgin Nigeria Airways and TP Mazembe, a soccer club in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Here in Washington, Moffett expects that Mayer Brown will be engaged in issues surrounding the rise of bitcoin.

"We believe that, sooner or later, it's going to be a major congressional and U.S. government focus."

C.S.H.

IN THE TANKS

Clare Lopez

After 9/11, Clare Lopez became disenchanted with her employer and set out to learn about al-Qaida on her own.

"The federal contractor I was working for ... really didn't understand anything about who this enemy was," says Lopez, a former undercover-operations officer in the CIA who is the new vice president for research and

analysis at the Center for Security Policy. "So I decided to teach myself."

Over the next decade, Lopez devoured volume after volume on Islamic law and befriended investigative journalists and academics who were experts on the topic. From 2007 to 2010, she was a professor at the Centre for Counterintelligence and Security Studies in Virginia, a for-profit enterprise that offers classes to members of the intelligence community. To the astonishment of her students, Lopez prepared an eight-hour PowerPoint presentation on Iranian intelligence services that was derived entirely from unclassified sources.

"My students would always say to me, 'Where did you get that? I thought that was classified!'" Lopez says. "The truth is, there's far more information in the open-source world about these topics than in classified spaces. I began to realize afterward this is why our intelligence community is so crippled and so broken. They confine themselves too much to the classified world of information, to the tiny overall percentage of the world of information out there."

Lopez, 60, a native of Cleveland, holds a bachelor's degree from Notre Dame College in Ohio and a master's degree in international relations from Syracuse University. She then completed Marine Corps Officer Candidate School in Quantico, Va., but declined a commission so she could join the CIA. Over the next 20 years, she served as an undercover agent in Africa, Latin America, and Europe.

After leaving the CIA, Lopez embarked on a career as a consultant, intelligence analyst, and researcher for a number of defense contractors. She served as executive director of the Iran Policy Committee from 2005 to 2006, during which time the think tank published two books and four white papers.

In February 2012, Lopez was named to the Congressional Task Force on National and Homeland Security. She is also deputy director of the U.S. Counterterrorism Advisory Team for the South Carolina National Guard and has taught at Georgetown University as a guest lecturer on counterterrorism, national defense, and international relations.

In February 2009, Lopez published a provocative essay titled "Rise of the 'Iran Lobby': Tehran's Front Groups Move On—and Into—the Obama Administration." The 26-page essay, which dissects the impact of Iranian intelligence services on U.S. foreign policy, "actually set out the blueprint for the relationship that was to come between the Obama administration and the mullahs over the next six years," Lopez says. "Since President Obama took office, the U.S. has pivoted toward Iran and away from traditional Sunni allies like Saudi Arabia."

C.S.H.



Gone global: Toby Moffett

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