

JOHN MICHAEL GONZALEZ JOINS BIPARTISAN LOBBYING TEAM AT JOHNSON MADIGAN PECK

John Michael Gonzalez, former Chief of Staff for Congresswoman Melissa Bean (D-IL), is a respected voice throughout the House of Representatives, the Obama-Biden Administration and the business community.

(Washington, D.C) --- Further bolstering its bipartisan group of senior level strategists, Johnson, Madigan, Peck, Boland & Stewart has hired **John Michael Gonzalez**, Chief of Staff for **New Democrat Coalition Vice-Chair Congresswoman Melissa Bean (D-IL)**. Recently serving on the Obama-Biden Transition Project in the office of Congressional Affairs, Gonzalez is highly regarded for his political acumen, House Leadership ties and financial services expertise.

“We’re thrilled that John Michael Gonzalez, one of the most talented senior staffers in Democratic politics, will be applying his strategic vision, his practiced expertise and his wealth of relationships on behalf of our clients,” said **Jeffrey Peck**, a partner in the firm. “He’s been a top recruit for a long time, and his recent work in the House Democratic majority and the senior levels of the Obama-Biden transition team is just more proof of his talent. He will be an invaluable member of our team,” adds Peck, noting that Gonzalez joins recent hires **Sean Richardson**, former Chief of Staff to **Congressman Patrick Kennedy (D-RI)**, and **Tanya Lombard**, who served in the Clinton Administration as Special Assistant to the President and Director of Political Affairs for the Southern Region.

“John Michael’s results oriented business background and relationship development skills are the qualities that drive his success,” said **New Democrat Coalition Vice-Chair Congresswoman Melissa Bean (D-IL)**. “His vision, work ethic, judgment, and strategic thinking enabled us to set and exceed our team goals. Johnson Madigan Peck has wisely chosen a well respected and visionary leader for their team. John Michael is also a friend who I’ve enjoyed working with. I wish him the best of success.”

Chief Deputy Whip and New Democrat Coalition Leader Congressman Joseph Crowley (D-NY) adds, “We don’t have enough John Michaels to go around. He is smart, dedicated and has helped to position the New Democrats as a viable force on Capitol Hill. Throughout his tenure in the U.S. House of Representatives and during his time with the President’s transition team, a large number of Members have come to rely on his support and counsel. I know he will continue to be an important resource to all of us in his new capacity at Johnson Madigan Peck.”

“John Michael has a sterling reputation with the Blue Dogs,” says **Chief Deputy Whip and Blue Dog Coalition Co-Founder Congressman John Tanner (D-SC)**. “He understands us because he is one of us. He is a great addition to any firm and we will continue to work closely with him.”

“John Michael Gonzalez was a huge force behind our launch in the House of Representatives,” adds **Jon Cowan, Co-Founder and President of Third Way**.

“Among the most effective Chiefs of Staff in Congress, he knows everyone that matters and has the relationships to make things happen. He was an indispensable part of our team because his strategic thinking, unerring guidance and tireless advocacy helped steer us through the complexities of Caucus politics and spread the word about Third Way quickly and effectively.”

Gonzalez has served as Chief of Staff for **Congresswoman Bean** since her 2004 upset victory of longtime incumbent Phil Crane. In 2006, when Rep. Bean was facing her first re-election as the top “Frontline” Republican target, Gonzalez successfully planned and executed a winning re-election strategy, raising \$4.3 million and earning the most support for any incumbent from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. This was the most expensive incumbent race in the country in 2006 and was called one of the best run by *The Washington Post*. Based on his success, Gonzalez was asked by House Leadership to assist in incumbent protection for the new “Majority Maker” class of 2006. He continued to serve as a mentor for freshman Members and Chiefs of Staff and advised Leadership and the moderate New Democrat and Blue Dog Coalitions on incumbent protection issues.

In 2007, Gonzalez helped Obama Campaign for Change National Co-Chair Melissa Bean coordinate a successful House super-delegate operation for the President. While serving on the Transition, Gonzalez was responsible for congressional outreach on financial services, small business and telecommunication issues, focusing most recently on the auto bailout, regulatory reform and the TARP.

In 2007, Gonzalez helped bring Third Way to the House of Representatives, recruiting six key House leaders as Co-Chairs. This brought key progressive, pro-growth research and resources to House Members, Caucus Leadership and the DCCC.

Gonzalez helped lead efforts among House Democrats to pass the crucial TARP legislation in late 2008, and has been a key player in current efforts to create a federal insurance regulator. He helped form the New Democrat Coalition's task force on regulatory modernization, and has rallied support for free trade agreements.

Gonzalez began his political career as an appointee for **Texas Governor Ann Richards**. In 2003, he became Chief of Staff for **Congressman Chris Bell (D-TX)**.

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