

John R. Russell, IV

Principal



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Overview

John Russell is a member of Dentons' Public Policy practice. Focusing on federal advocacy and strategic communications, John worked for nearly a decade on Capitol Hill, serving on the leadership staffs of a speaker, a House majority whip and the chairman of the House Campaign Committee. In his career, John has worked both extensively and effectively in the legislative, communications and campaign arenas.

Described by the *National Journals* Richard Cohen as experienced and discreet, John has built and maintained strong relationships with members of Congress, as well as committee and personal office staffs. His strong and nuanced working knowledge of the policy, political and personal aspects of Washington, DC, allows him to design winning strategies to accomplish dynamic policy and market objectives. John was named a Top Lobbyist for 2018, 2019 and 2020 by *The Hill* newspaper.

John is devoted to improving literacy in California, Ohio and Washington, DC, and has served numerous nonprofits as a volunteer to help children improve reading skills.

Experience

Energy

- Provided government affairs counsel and strategic advice for the first wave-energy project permitted by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in the country.
- Represented the nation's largest distributed energy company in profile enhancement and regulatory matters.
- Represented the nation's largest municipal utility.

Health care

- Provided government affairs counsel to California's largest association of coordinated care doctors in health care reform and implementation.
- Provided government affairs counsel to state-based exchanges before House and Senate investigative

committees.

- Represents the nation's largest Medicaid health plan before authorizing and appropriating committees.

Appropriations

- Secured more than US\$3 million in programmatic and congressionally directed spending for a public health client.

Congressional investigations

- Provided counsel and communications advice to individuals, organizations and trade groups facing inquiries in the House and Senate.

Manufacturing

- Provided government affairs counsel to the world's largest apparel component manufacturer in legislative matters before Congress and the Consumer Product Safety Commission.
- Represents the recreational vehicle industry on corporate average fuel economy standards and Federal Emergency Management Agency temporary housing matters.

Coalition development/strategic communications

- Created an industry-wide coalition to address a pending federal study and follow-on legislation.
- Directed the media rollout of a six-year administrative process for the relicensing of a hydropower project.
- Conceived and implemented social media strategies for high-profile litigation and legislative battles, as well as profile enhancement on behalf of individuals, corporations and trade associations.
- Media-trained executives for interactions with congressional committees and with cable news and print reporters.
- Developed nationally recognized third-party allies.

Recognition

Honors and Awards

- Named, Top Lobbyist, *The Hill*, 2018 - 2020

Insights

- "House sends US\$2 trillion in Economic Aid Package to the President to sign," Dentons client alert, March 27, 2020
- "US Federal Coronavirus Update Administration Blueprint for Third Economic Relief Package," Dentons client alert, March 19, 2020
- "House and Senate pass Families First Coronavirus Response Act with broad bipartisan support," Dentons client alert, March 18, 2020
- "Trump Impeachment Update: Senate acquits," Dentons client alert, February 6, 2020
- "Trump Impeachment Inquiry: Recent developments and what's happening this week - Week of January 27,

2020," Dentons client alert, January 29, 2020

- "Trump Impeachment Inquiry: Recent developments and what's happening this week - Week of January 13, 2020," Dentons client alert, January 17, 2020
- "Trump Impeachment Inquiry: Recent developments and what's happening this week - Week of December 23, 2019," Dentons client alert, December 23, 2019
- "Trump Impeachment Inquiry: Recent developments and what's happening this week - Week of December 9, 2019," Dentons client alert, December 13, 2019
- "Trump Impeachment Inquiry: Recent developments and what's happening this week - Week of December 2, 2019," Dentons client alert, December 6, 2019
- "Trump Impeachment Inquiry: Recent developments and what's happening this week - Week of November 18, 2019," Dentons client alert, November 18, 2019
- "Trump Impeachment Inquiry: Recent developments and what's happening this week - Week of November 4, 2019," Dentons client alert, November 4, 2019
- "Trump Impeachment Inquiry: Recent developments and what's happening this week - Week of October 28, 2019," Dentons client alert, October 28, 2019
- "Trump Impeachment Inquiry: Recent developments and what's happening this week – Week of October 21, 2019," Dentons client alert, October 21, 2019
- "Trump Impeachment Inquiry: Recent developments and what's happening this week – Week of October 15, 2019," Dentons client alert, October 15, 2019
- "Trump impeachment inquiry takes shape with focus on Ukraine, Pompeo, Giuliani," Dentons client alert, October 2, 2019
- "Understanding the whistleblower law at the center of the House impeachment decision," Dentons client alert, September 25, 2019
- "Grassley introduces bipartisan legislation amending FARA," Dentons client alert, June 18, 2019
- "With Introduction of H.R. 1, House Democrats Push Significant Campaign Finance, Ethics and Voting Reforms," Dentons client alert, February 19, 2019
- "2019 US Policy Scan," *Dentons US LLP*, January 3, 2019
- "2019 Financial Services Policy Outlook," Dentons client alert, January 17, 2019
- "Senate Finance Committee releases tax reform bill," Dentons client alert, November 10, 2017
- "2017 Election Recap and Analysis," Dentons client alert, November 8, 2017
- "2017 Election Preview," *Dentons US LLP*, October 31, 2017
- "Fall's Congressional To Do List," *Dentons US LLP*, September 5, 2017
- "100 Days of President Trump," *Dentons US LLP*, May 1, 2017
- "US Policy and Politics Fall Preview," *Dentons US LLP*, August 31, 2016
- "Congress breathes new life into expired tax provisions and adopts other changes," Dentons client alert, December 18, 2015
- "Update on California drought regulations," Dentons client alert, April 29, 2015
- "Medicare physician payment overhaul bill becomes law," Dentons client alert, April 15, 2015

- "New California laws," Dentons client alert, January 13, 2015
- "The road ahead: What's coming in the final months of the 113th Congress and the Lame Duck session ," Dentons client alert, September 3, 2014

Activities and Affiliations

Presentations

- "Predictions for the Upcoming Elections," Dentons CLE Seminar, October 17, 2018, Washington, DC

Prior and Present Employment

John spent nearly two years working on the floor of the US House of Representatives, interacting with members from both sides of the aisle as he managed the day-to-day legislative operations as a floor assistant and then deputy to the chief of staff for House Speaker J. Dennis Hastert. Before his position with Hastert, he was recognized as the youngest chief of staff on Capitol Hill when he served Congressman J. Randy Forbes, after working as a senior campaign aide during a June 2001 special election.

Prior to that campaign, John was the aide-de-camp to National Republican Congressional Committee Chairman Tom Davis, after running the congressman's successful leadership election in the fall of 2000. John began his Capitol Hill career in the office of Majority Whip Tom DeLay as a staff assistant and rose to become the outreach coordinator responsible for maintaining relationships and building coalitions between key members of the business community and the Republican leadership.

He worked day to day in the highest levels on Capitol Hill. This perspective brought lasting relationships and a wealth of real-world experience in designing, implementing and maintaining dynamic, battle-tested legislative and strategic communications plans. He has built high-stakes communications programs for those who face the most stringent levels of media scrutiny. He is well-versed in traditional media and is at the leading edge of ever-growing online news operations. He works on a daily basis with leading newsrooms to bring balance to media coverage of high-profile issues and clients.

Areas of focus

Practices

- Advocacy and Government Affairs
- Congressional Investigations (United States)
- Energy Advocacy
- Energy Regulation
- Environmental Regulation
- EU Policy
- Health Care Advocacy
- Native American Law and Policy (United States)
- Public Policy and Regulation

Industry sectors

- Energy
- Government
- Health Care
- Life Sciences and Health Care
- Manufacturing
- Technology
- Transportation

Issues and opportunities

- Global Smart Cities & Connected Communities Initiative and Think Tank

Region

- Sacramento

Education

- Kenyon College, 1997, BA, Political Science