KDCR PARTNERS

KOUNTOUPES DENHAM CARR & REID

Lisa Kountoupes

FOUNDER & PRESIDENT



PRACTICE AREAS

- Appropriations
- Energy, Environment & Infrastructure
- Tax & Trade
- Technology & Telecommunications

EDUCATION

- University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, graduated with honors & distinction

PRIOR POSITIONS

- Deputy Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs, Clinton White House
- Assistant Director for Legislative Affairs, Office of Management & Budget
- Special Assistant, U.S. Department of Energy
- Staff, House Energy & Commerce Committee (Chairman John D. Dingell)

As the firm's Founder and President, Lisa is a recognized leader in Washington. The National Journal and Punchbowl News consider Lisa one of the preeminent insiders on how to make things happen in the halls of Congress and federal agencies. Since founding KDCR Partners in 2007, she is regularly named as a Top Lobbyist by The Hill, and the firm is routinely recognized as a top performing and notable firm by Bloomberg and Politico. In 2026, the Washingtonian named her one of Washington's Most Powerful Women.

Lisa primarily works with clients in the energy and environment, technology/telecommunications, and healthcare space and has decades of experience working on issues related to appropriations, tax, and trade. She provides strategic advice and legislative advocacy across both chambers of Congress and the Executive Branch to help clients build and strengthen their presence on Capitol Hill. She is also on the Board of Directors at the nonprofit Women's Energy Resource Council (WERC).

Prior to her consulting work, Lisa held a series of senior positions in the federal government, including the Executive Branch at the White House, the Department of Energy, and the United States Congress. Lisa served as Deputy Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs for President Bill Clinton.

She spent three years as Assistant Director for Legislative Affairs at the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) where she was part of the team that secured passage of the historic 1997 Balanced Budget Agreement. Beginning in May 1994, she served as a Special Assistant in the Secretary's office at the U.S. Department of Energy, working on issues related to the electric utility industry, clean energy, environmental clean-up and the nation's research laboratories.

Prior to her tenure in the Clinton administration, Lisa served as a member of the staff of the U.S. House of Representatives Energy and Commerce Committee under Chairman John D. Dingell (D-MI).

Lisa graduated with honors and distinction from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor.

KDCR PARTNERS

KOUNTOUPES DENHAM CARR & REID

Lori Denham

PARTNER & COO



PRACTICE AREAS

- Health & Employment
- Retail & Financial Services
- Tax & Trade

EDUCATION

- BA, University of California, Davis
- MPA, George Washington University

PRIOR POSITIONS

- Executive Vice President, Government Affairs & Industry Operations, Retail Industry Leaders Association (RILA)
- Chief of Staff, Rep. Cal Dooley (D-CA)
- Legislative Director, Rep. Darlene Hooley (D-OR)
- Chief of Staff to Elizabeth Edwards, Kerry-Edwards Presidential Campaign

Lori is partner and chief operating officer for KDCR Partners and leads the firm's health care, retail, and financial services practices. For more than a decade, she has helped trade associations, Fortune 500 companies, and nonprofits craft and execute successful advocacy campaigns in Washington. Lori has been recognized as a top lobbyist by The Hill for the past seven years and has helped lead KDCR through a period of significant growth.

Prior to joining KDCR in 2008, Lori served for almost 20 years on Capitol Hill, for campaigns, and in the private sector. She was Executive Vice President of Government Affairs and Industry Operations for the Retail Industry Leaders Association (RILA) where she led the association's efforts in public policy and advocacy, retail industry relations, external communications, and served as the association's lead democratic liaison to Capitol Hill.

Prior to joining RILA, Lori worked for former Rep. Cal Dooley (D-CA) for more than 13 years in a variety of roles including legislative director and chief of staff. During her tenure with Rep. Dooley, Lori helped build and provide key strategic and public policy support for the New Democrat Coalition.

Lori also served as Legislative Director to former Energy and Commerce Committee member Rep. Darlene Hooley (D-OR) and has a range of campaign experience including managing the re-election campaign for Rep. Dooley and serving as a senior staffer on the Kerry-Edwards Presidential Campaign where she worked as Chief of Staff to Elizabeth Edwards.

Lori received a BA from the University of California at Davis in 1990. She received her MPA from the George Washington University.

KDCR PARTNERS

KOUNTOUPES DENHAM CARR & REID

Julie Hershey Carr

PARTNER



PRACTICE AREAS

- Health & Employment

EDUCATION

- BA, Communications (minor: Business Administration), Messiah University, Grantham, PA

PRIOR POSITIONS

- Legislative Director, Rep. Joseph R. Pitts (R-PA), Chairman, House Energy & Commerce Health Subcommittee

Julie is an experienced government affairs leader with many years of experience in government, politics, and public policy. As Partner at KDCR, she helps her clients develop key relationships and advance their priorities amidst the complex nature of Capitol Hill. Her clients include Fortune 500 corporations, trade associations and non-profits in healthcare, technology, and telecommunications.

She has successfully advocated for KDCR clients in major legislative battles that ultimately resulted in passage into law, including a landmark medical device tax repeal, medical imaging dose optimization, and over the counter monograph reform. Julie also navigated her clients through a contentious internet governance issue facing significant conservative opposition, as well privacy debates.

A seasoned Republican strategist with strong relationships from the least to the most conservative wing of the party, Julie has strong connections within House Republican leadership and with all House congressional Republican working groups and caucuses.

Prior to entering private practice, Julie served as Legislative Director for former Congressman Joseph R. Pitts (R-PA), Chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee, where she handled his health care, technology, and trade portfolios. A native Pennsylvanian, Julie worked on his first campaign for Congress and remains active in Pennsylvania politics.

Julie received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications with a minor in Business Administration from Messiah University in Grantham, PA.

KDCR PARTNERS

KOUNTOUPES DENHAM CARR & REID

Randi Reid

PARTNER



PRACTICE AREAS

- Appropriations
- Energy, Environment & Infrastructure
- Retail & Financial Services
- Tax & Trade

EDUCATION

- BA, Communications & Political Science, Southwestern University
- Master of Public Policy, Georgetown University

PRIOR POSITIONS

- Legislative Director, Sen. Michael B. Enzi (R-WY), Senate Finance & HELP Committees (2005–2013)
- Legislative Director, Rep. Michael C. Burgess (R-TX)
- Legislative Analyst, Texas Office of State-Federal Relations

Randi brings more than 15 years of state and federal government experience as a Partner at Kountoupes Denham Carr & Reid where she helps lead the firm's energy and transportation portfolios. Using her depth of policy knowledge and key Senate and House relationships, Randi provides sharp strategic counsel to develop and achieve clients' policy goals in Washington.

Prior to entering private consulting, Randi served as Legislative Director for former U.S. Senator Michael B. Enzi (R-WY) for five Congresses in 2005-2013. Randi oversaw Senator Enzi's policy development and provided political counsel on landmark legislation focusing on health care, tax, and transportation. She led coalition efforts to galvanize both congressional and third-party support for critical Senate Finance and Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committees' legislation. Randi is a long-recognized leader among Senate Legislative Directors and co-created the Senate Bipartisan Legislative Directors' Group in 2007. She was the Senator's primary liaison to the Senate Republican Steering Committee where she focused on building support among conservatives on budget, tax, and health care issues. She also worked closely with committee staff and member offices when Senator Enzi served as the Senate HELP Committee's top Republican member for eight years, helping the Senator to enact more than 30 bills into public law.

A Texas native, Randi began her career in state government affairs working as a Legislative Analyst for the Texas Office of State-Federal Relations in Washington, DC. She started her career on Capitol Hill in 1999 as a Legislative Assistant for Senator Enzi before working as Legislative Director for U.S. Representative Michael C. Burgess (R-TX) during his freshman term in 2003-2004, where she served as his primary counsel for the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee activities and legislation.

Randi received a Bachelor of Arts in Communications and Political Science from Southwestern University and a Master of Public Policy from Georgetown University.

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KOUNTOUPES DENHAM CARR & REID

David Peluso

PARTNER



PRACTICE AREAS

- Energy, Environment & Infrastructure
- Retail & Financial Services
- Tax & Trade
- Technology & Telecommunications

EDUCATION

- BS, Technology Management, St. Petersburg College

PRIOR POSITIONS

- Chief of Staff, Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA), Chair, House Energy & Commerce
- Chief of Staff & Communications Director, Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), Chair, E&C Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing & Trade

Dave brings a decade of federal government experience as a partner at Kountoupes Denham Carr & Reid, where he works primarily with the firm's energy and technology practices on issues related to artificial intelligence, data privacy, antitrust, Section 230, travel and tourism, nuclear energy, and clean energy technologies. With a strong grasp of a broad set of issues and a highly sharpened political sense, Dave helps clients develop winning strategies on Capitol Hill.

Prior to entering private consulting, Dave served as Chief of Staff for former House Energy and Commerce Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA). In addition, Dave was Chief of Staff for Congressman Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), Chair of the House Energy and Commerce's Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing and Trade. Dave's extensive work in the House Republican Conference has made him a well-placed expert on the complex dynamics in the House with unique insight into the day to day thinking of members of Congress across the ideological spectrum.

Dave achieved a number of legislative successes while working in the House, including securing policy victories in appropriations, energy and homeland security bills, as well as shepherding bills concerning tax, regulatory reform, telecommunications and cybersecurity. Dave is also respected for his strategic communications skills and his political savvy, having served as Communications Director for Congressman Bilirakis as well. In addition to his work with Members, he is a recognized leader among House Republican Chiefs of Staff, where he has presented regularly at the Congressional Institute's Chiefs of Staff retreat and helped lead outreach efforts which fostered collaboration among House Chiefs of Staff and leadership offices. During his time with Congressman Bilirakis, he led the campaign that secured the Congressman's position on the House Committee on Energy and Commerce in coordination with House Leadership and key stakeholders.

Prior to his tenure in Washington DC, Dave served as a Finance Director for Congressman Bilirakis' initial campaign for the U.S. House of Representatives. Dave received a Bachelor of Science in Technology Management from St. Petersburg College.

KDCR PARTNERS

KOUNTOUPES DENHAM CARR & REID

MJ Kenny

PARTNER



PRACTICE AREAS

- Appropriations
- Energy, Environment & Infrastructure
- Health & Employment
- Retail & Financial Services
- Tax & Trade
- Technology & Telecommunications

EDUCATION

- BA, History, Northwestern University

PRIOR POSITIONS

- Deputy Floor Director, Sen. Richard J. Durbin (D-IL), Senate Democratic Whip
- Legislative Aide, Sen. Durbin (transportation, trade, agriculture)

MJ is a Partner at Kountoupes Denham Carr & Reid, having joined the firm in 2019 after nearly ten years on Capitol Hill. As a veteran of the Senate, MJ offers clients a deep well of experience regarding the unique politics and personalities that drive Congress. Within the firm's energy, technology, and telecommunications practices, MJ provides essential insight into the appropriations process, Senate Floor procedure, and dynamics within the Senate Democratic leadership.

On the Hill, MJ served as Deputy Floor Director for Senate Democratic Whip Richard J. Durbin (D-IL). In this role, he provided daily strategic advice to the Senator and members of the Democratic caucus on all pending matters on the Senate floor. For nearly a decade, MJ advised Senator Durbin and his staff on how best to advance the Senator's legislative priorities from immigration to health care and tax legislation. He managed the Senator's daily floor messaging, which led to the elevation of key priorities such as the DREAM Act and was also responsible for helping generate the Senator's amendment strategy for every piece of legislation that received floor consideration from the 112th to the 116th Congresses. He also provided counsel on the Senate's complex rules, knowing how to use the procedures of the institution to achieve legislative and political success both in the majority and in the minority.

MJ has worked with each Senate committee to help usher major legislative and executive items through the Senate and played a key role in determining weekly caucus floor strategy, developing a distinguished reputation as a skilled political staffer. He worked on multiple Farm Bill and surface transportation reauthorizations, the yearly appropriations bills, the often-lengthy budget caps and debt debates, and the annual National Defense Authorization Act. As a senior leadership aide, he regularly briefed House Democratic Legislative Directors on all matters related to the Senate.

Prior to serving as Deputy Floor Director, MJ was a Legislative Aide to Senator Durbin on issues related to transportation, trade, and agriculture. MJ currently serves on the Board of Directors at the nonprofit National Energy Resources Organization (NERO). He holds a Bachelor of Arts in History from Northwestern University and originally hails from Bethesda, Maryland.

KDCR PARTNERS

KOUNTOUPES DENHAM CARR & REID

Mary Dee Beal

PRINCIPAL



PRACTICE AREAS

- Appropriations
- Energy, Environment & Infrastructure
- Health & Employment
- Retail & Financial Services
- Tax & Trade

EDUCATION

- BA, Psychology, Mercer University

PRIOR POSITIONS

- Senate Republican Policy Committee, Sen. Roy Blunt (R-MO)
- Senior Advisor to Secretary Sonny Perdue; Acting Chief of Staff to Deputy Secretary Stephen Censky, USDA
- Legislative Director, Rep. Drew Ferguson (R-GA) and Rep. Austin Scott (R-GA)

Mary Dee Beal joined Kountoupes Denham Carr & Reid in 2022, bringing more than a decade of federal policy experience, including senior roles in the Executive Branch and the Congress. She provides a deep understanding of complex policy and congressional processes to the health care and energy practices at the firm.

Most recently, Mary Dee served on the Senate Republican Policy Committee for U.S. Senator Roy Blunt (R-MO), where she provided analysis and education on issues related to tax, budget, appropriations, and small business. She worked closely with staff across the Senate Republican Conference, as well as Republican leadership and key Senate committees to advance Republican priorities.

Prior to her service in the U.S. Senate, Mary Dee served as Senior Advisor to Secretary Sonny Perdue and Acting Chief of Staff to Deputy Secretary Stephen Censky at the United States Department of Agriculture. During her time at USDA, she served as the principal advisor to the Secretary on climate, innovation, ag tech, and agriculture research priorities. At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, she led the Department's crisis management strategy to preserve the national food supply chain and worked closely with officials at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Transportation, and the National Economic Council as the interagency policy lead for the federal food supply chain response.

Mary Dee also spent over seven years in the U.S. House of Representatives, serving as Legislative Director for both Congressman Drew Ferguson (R-GA) and Congressman Austin Scott (R-GA).

Mary Dee is active with a number of organizations in Washington, D.C., including the Georgia State Society. From 2020-2021, she served as the Chairman of the 38th Taste of the South gala, an event that donated $400,000 for non-profit organizations in thirteen states and Washington, D.C.

A native of Statesboro, Georgia, she received a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Mercer University.

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Sam Coffey

PRINCIPAL



PRACTICE AREAS

- Health & Employment
- Retail & Financial Services
- Technology & Telecommunications

EDUCATION

- B.A., Knox College
- J.D., Chicago-Kent College of Law

PRIOR POSITIONS

- Deputy Floor Director & Counsel, Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL), Senate Judiciary Committee
- White House Office of Presidential Correspondence, Obama Administration
- Attorney, private law firm and legal nonprofit

Sam Coffey joined KDCR Partners in 2026 after a decade of experience across the United States Senate, the White House, and the private sector. With distinguished expertise in antitrust, mergers, and judicial oversight, Sam works primarily with clients in the technology, telecommunications, and retail practices at the firm.

Prior to joining KDCR, Sam served as deputy floor director and counsel for Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL), the Senate Democratic whip and ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee. As deputy floor director, Sam provided daily tactical advice on how to advance Democrats' legislative priorities, including through strategic use of the Senate's complex rules, and amendments to major legislation such as appropriations bills and the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

As counsel for Senate Judiciary Ranking Member Durbin, Sam prepared committee Democrats for significant policy and oversight hearings during the 118th and 119th Congresses, drafted oversight letters, and conducted multiple oversight investigations. Outside of the United States Senate, he has worked at a law firm, a legal nonprofit, and the White House Office of Presidential Correspondence under the Obama administration.

Sam originally hails from Illinois and has a bachelor's degree from Knox College, and a J.D. from Chicago-Kent College of Law.

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KOUNTOUPES DENHAM CARR & REID

Lindsay Garcia

PRINCIPAL



PRACTICE AREAS

- Appropriations
- Energy, Environment & Infrastructure
- Health & Employment

EDUCATION

- BA, Vanderbilt University
- JD, William & Mary School of Law

PRIOR POSITIONS

- Staff Director, Senate Appropriations Energy & Water Development Subcommittee (Chair Collins, Chair Kennedy)
- Policy Director, Senate Republican Policy Committee (Chairman Blunt)
- Legislative Director, Energy Policy Director & Chief Counsel, Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN)

Lindsay Garcia has over a decade of experience in federal policy, including as a senior aide to Senate Republican leadership and the Senate Appropriations Committee. She has deep expertise in tax, appropriations, and energy policy, and a keen ability to navigate conference dynamics.

Prior to joining KDCR Partners, Lindsay served as a clerk and staff director for the Senate Appropriations Energy and Water Development Subcommittee, working directly with Senate Appropriations Chair Susan Collins (R-ME) and Subcommittee Chair John Kennedy (R-LA), where she drafted appropriations legislation and oversaw funding of the U.S. Department of Energy, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and related agencies.

Prior to her work as a senior aide on the Senate Appropriations Committee, Lindsay served as the policy director for the Senate Republican Policy Committee under Chairman Roy Blunt (R-MO), working closely with every office in the Senate Republican conference and other leadership offices to communicate and advance the Republican policy agenda.

Lindsay also worked for Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) as his legislative director, energy policy director, and chief counsel. A native of Missouri, Lindsay earned her bachelor's degree from Vanderbilt University and her J.D. from William & Mary School of Law.

KDCR PARTNERS

KOUNTOUPES DENHAM CARR & REID

Jonathan Gilbert

PRINCIPAL



PRACTICE AREAS

- Appropriations
- Energy, Environment & Infrastructure
- Retail & Financial Services

EDUCATION

- BA with honors, University of California, Los Angeles
- Master of Environmental Management, Duke University

PRIOR POSITIONS

- Chief of Staff, Rep. Mike Levin (D-CA)
- Senior Policy Advisor, Rep. Doris Matsui (D-CA)
- Office of Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)

Jonathan Gilbert joined KDCR Partners in 2026 after 13 years of service on Capitol Hill within the California congressional delegation. He has substantial expertise in energy, environment, natural resources, and appropriations policy, and an intricate understanding of the House Democratic Caucus.

Most recently, Jonathan served as chief of staff for Rep. Mike Levin (D-CA), a member of the House Appropriations Energy and Water Subcommittee, and Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Subcommittee, and a former member of the House Natural Resources Committee. As chief of staff, he led efforts to introduce House Democrats' premier transmission policy and energy affordability proposals for the 118th and 119th Congresses, and spearheaded preparation of the Democratic Caucus' energy policy plan for the 120th Congress. Jonathan advised Rep. Levin in his role as a member of the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis and chair of House Democrats' Committee on Caucus Rules.

Jonathan also worked as a senior policy advisor for Rep. Doris Matsui (D-CA), a senior member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee and the co-chair of the House Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition (SEEC). With Rep. Matsui, he engaged extensively on nuclear policy, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers projects, and clean transportation rules.

Jonathan began his career in the office of Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), where he assisted with her work that led to President Obama's designation of the Mojave Trails National Monument, the Sand to Snow National Monument, and Castle Mountains National Monument in Southern California.

He is originally from California and has a bachelor's degree with honors from the University of California, Los Angeles, and a Master of Environmental Management from Duke University.

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Adam Hechavarria

PRINCIPAL



PRACTICE AREAS

- Retail & Financial Services
- Tax & Trade
- Technology & Telecommunications

EDUCATION

- BA, Government, University of Maryland
- MA, World Politics, Catholic University of America

PRIOR POSITIONS

- Legislative Director, Sen. Todd Young (R-IN), NRSC Chairman & Republican Deputy Whip
- Legislative Director, Sen. Kelly Ayotte (R-NH)
- Senate Budget Committee, Chairman Judd Gregg (R-NH)
- Office of Sen. John Sununu (R-NH)

Adam brings more than 15 years of Capitol Hill experience to Kountoupes Denham Carr & Reid, where he offers sharp insight into the Senate Republican Conference and analysis of key geopolitical atmospherics for the firm's clients across a range of industry sectors, including technology, financial services, telecommunications, retail, and healthcare. He also works closely with clients on appropriations and National Defense Authorization Act processes.

Most recently, Adam served as Legislative Director for Senator Todd Young (R-IN), former Chairman of the National Republican Senatorial Committee and a Republican Deputy Whip. In this role, he led the policy team and provided counsel on issues including tax, telecommunications, trade, manufacturing, infrastructure, workforce development, health care, and immigration. As Senator Young's Deputy Whip liaison, he worked closely with Republican leadership staff, the Administration, and the Indiana delegation. Further, he led the Senator's legislative agenda within the Senate Finance, Commerce, Foreign Relations, Small Business, and HELP Committees.

Prior to his work for Senator Young, Adam served as Legislative Director for Senator Kelly Ayotte (R-NH) and worked closely on issues involving the Budget, Homeland Security, Armed Services, Commerce, and Aging committees. Among several policy achievements, he successfully worked to enact comprehensive legislation to address opioid addiction, improve defense acquisition and contracting, and address gaps in our nation's mental health system. He was also responsible for directing preparation and strategy for multiple appropriations and defense authorization cycles, fiscal cliff negotiations, public town halls, and hundreds of national media appearances.

Adam also worked on the Senate Budget Committee under then-Chairman Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH) and in the office of Senator John Sununu (R-NH). A New Hampshire native, Adam received a Bachelor of Arts in Government from the University of Maryland and a Master of Arts in World Politics from the Catholic University of America.

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KOUNTOUPES DENHAM CARR & REID

Denise Mousouris Northrup

PRINCIPAL



PRACTICE AREAS

- Appropriations
- Energy, Environment & Infrastructure
- Health & Employment
- Retail & Financial Services
- Technology & Telecommunications

EDUCATION

- BA, Political Science (minor: History), Dickinson College

PRIOR POSITIONS

- National Finance Director, Rep. Cheri Bustos (D-IL), DCCC Chairwoman
- Senior Finance Advisor to DCCC Chairwoman (2020 cycle)
- Associate, The Frost Group

Denise Mousouris Northrup joined Kountoupes Denham Carr & Reid in 2021 after four cycles of political experience. At the firm, Denise provides valuable political and strategic insight to help clients develop relationships with Members of Congress and achieve their legislative goals.

Most recently, Denise served as National Finance Director to former Congresswoman Cheri Bustos (D-IL), who served as Chairwoman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC) and Co-Chair of the House Steering and Policy Committee during her time in Congress. Denise played a key leadership role in Congresswoman Bustos' finance and political operation in Washington, DC, Illinois and nationally. She oversaw a multi-million-dollar budget, authorized strategic campaign spending, built a prominent leadership PAC and broke fundraising records.

During the 2020 cycle, Denise worked at the DCCC serving as Senior Finance Advisor to the Chairwoman where she helped successfully hold the Democratic House majority. She managed the political fundraising agenda of the DCCC Chairwoman and often accompanied Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi on national travel. Denise also worked closely with Members of Congress, candidates and their staffs advising them on the national political landscape while cultivating relationships with important stakeholders.

Prior to her work at the DCCC, Denise was an Associate at the Frost Group, a premier DC PAC fundraising firm where she executed quarterly finance plans for clients, including Committee Chairs, Tri-Caucus Chairs, DCCC Frontline Members, DCCC Red-to-Blue candidates, non-profits and Senate candidates in addition to leading events at the 2016 Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia, PA.

A proud Greek-American from Virginia Beach, Virginia, Denise holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and a minor in History from Dickinson College.

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KOUNTOUPES DENHAM CARR & REID

Leslie Zelenko

PRINCIPAL



PRACTICE AREAS

- Appropriations
- Health & Employment
- Technology & Telecommunications

EDUCATION

- BA, Political Science & Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Master of Public Policy, George Washington University

PRIOR POSITIONS

- Deputy Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health & Human Services
- Legislative Director, Rep. Mark Pocan (WI-02), Co-Chair, Congressional Progressive Caucus

Leslie joined KDCR in 2023 after 11 years working in the Executive Branch and House of Representatives. Though she primarily works with the firm's health care practice, Leslie uses her policy and political expertise to advise clients on a range of issues, including the annual appropriations process.

She most recently served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Legislation at the Department of Health and Human Services where she led the Department's legislative strategy and engagement for public health. In her two and half years working in the Department she worked on policy and legislation relating to public health preparedness, including during the Covid-19 response, and the PREVENT Pandemics Act & Preparedness All-Hazards Prevention Act (PAHPA). Leslie also steered the agency's legislative strategy on the development of ARPA-H, the expansion of mental health care for children and families, reform of the organ procurement system, and drug pricing and drug shortage issues.

Prior to her role in the Biden-Harris administration, Leslie served nine years in Congress as Legislative Director for Congressman Mark Pocan (WI-02). In this role, she managed his Labor, Health and Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee portfolio. Leslie also spearheaded the Congressman's health policy work in his role as co-chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus.

Leslie received her Master of Public Policy from the George Washington University and Bachelor of Arts degrees in Political Science and Sociology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.