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Former top Portman aide to WilmerHale — Herald Group hires four — Former Rep. Owens to McKenna Long & Aldridge — Schooling forms new firm

By [TARINI PARTI](#) | 01/14/15 2:00 PM EDT

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With Adam Sneed and Anna Palmer

FORMER TOP PORTMAN AIDE TO WILMERHALE: WilmerHale has hired **Rob Lehman**, former chief of staff to Ohio Sen. **Rob Portman**, to serve as co-chairman of the firm's legislative affairs and public policy group. Lehman also previously served as chief of staff for the Office of Management and Budget and chief of staff for the United States Trade Representative.

"Rob's extensive congressional, executive branch and corporate experience is well-known within the Washington public policy arena," said **Robert Novick**, co-managing partner of WilmerHale, in a statement. "He is a dynamic addition and will add tremendous value for our clients who will be able to rely on his strategic judgment to coordinate and provide rapid responses to a growing number of regulatory and legislative issues."

FIRST IN PI ... HERALD GROUP HIRES FOUR: The Herald Group, LLC, a bipartisan public affairs firm, has made four new hires: **Kristine Esposito** as senior director, **Kasia Zabawa** as director, **Sarah Chu** as senior associate and **Amanda Bobbitt** as an associate. All four will provide strategic communications and advocacy counsel.

Esposito joins from **Direct Impact**. Zabawa comes from the **American Enterprise Institute**, and Chu spent three years in the Senate working on the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee as a press assistant and more recently a health research assistant. Bobbitt has previously worked in **Fleishman Hillard's** health care practice.

FORMER REP. OWENS TO MCKENNA LONG & ALDRIDGE: Recently retired New York Rep. **Bill Owens** has joined **McKenna Long & Aldridge LLP** as a senior strategic adviser in the Washington office. Owens will advise Canadian and U.S. clients on cross-border commerce and work on the firm's federal as well as state and local government affairs practice in New York, with offices in New York City and Albany.

GOOD WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, where it's been 61 years **Marilyn Monroe** and **Joe DiMaggio** were married. **Adam Sneed** will be taking the lead on PI tomorrow. Send your lobbying news, gossip, tips and scoops to

asneed@politico.com (mailto:asneed@politico.com) and tparti@politico.com (mailto:tparti@politico.com) . And keep up with PI on Twitter by following @PoliticoPI (<http://www.twitter.com/PoliticoPI>) .

SCHOOLING FORMS NEW FIRM: Public affairs veteran **Robert Schooling**, who previously led the North American operations of **APCO Worldwide**, has formed a new firm, **Reservoir Communications Group**. The new firm will specialize in “integrating brand, reputation and advocacy communications,” according to a press release.

PODESTA’S COLLIER MOVES TO NESTLE: **Nicole Collier** has joined **Nestlé Corporate Affairs** as director of government relations. Collier previously served as a principal at **The Podesta Group**.

DISTRICT POLICY GROUP ADDS THREE: **District Policy Group**, the lobbying arm of law firm **Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP**, has hired three: **Kara Gainer** as senior research and policy analyst; **Jerrica Mathis** as senior government relations manager; and **Sarah Williams Savoy** as a policy analyst.

BAKER NAMED GALLATIN’S IDAHO MANAGING PARTNER: **Emily Baker**, partner at **Gallatin Public Affairs**, has been named managing partner of the firm’s Idaho office — the first woman to serve in that role in the firm’s 25 year history. Baker served as a senior official within the **George W. Bush** administration at the U.S. Department of Commerce and as administrator of the Northeast and Caribbean Region for the U.S. General Services Administration.

CEP NAMES GOLDNER BOARD CHAIRMAN: The **Center for Economic Progress** has elected **Greg Goldner**, founder and CEO of **Resolute Consulting**, as its board chairman.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES USA SELECTS FIRST FEMALE PRESIDENT: **Catholic Charities USA** has selected Sister **Donna Markham**, president of the **Behavioral Health Institute for Mercy Health**, as its new president. Markham is the first female to lead CCUSA in the organization’s 105-year history.

NATIONAL SERVICE GROUP NAMES AWARD WINNERS: **Voices for National Service**, a coalition of national service programs, will give **Bain Capital’s Jonathan Lavine** the citizen and corporate service award and GOP Govs. **Terry Branstad** of Iowa and **Rick Snyder** of Michigan the state leadership awards. Sens. **Orrin Hatch**, **Patty Murray** and Rep. **Hal Rogers** will receive federal champion awards.

** At the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the vision for America is clear. Our Jobs, Growth, and Opportunity agenda will help revitalize the American economy, create jobs, spur growth, and lift incomes. Our agenda is built on the belief that our nation’s best days are yet to come. More at www.uschamber.com (<http://www.uschamber.com>) **

ELSEWHERE IN THE INFLUENCE WORLD:

BUSINESS LOBBY READY FOR CUBA FIGHT: Congress is preparing to fight the White House over easing travel and trade relations with Cuba, but business groups hope lawmakers will come around to support the changes. The Hill’s **Lydia Wheeler** reports: <http://bit.ly/14Wf60K> (<http://bit.ly/14Wf60K>)

CONSERVATIVE GROUP WANTS TO CURB GOP’S BIG DONORS: **John Pudner**, who helped **Dave Brat** unseat **Eric Cantor** last year, will lead the group **Take Back Our Republic** as it tries to build conservative support to reduce the influence of money in politics. The Washington Post’s **Matea Gold** has more: <http://wapo.st/14W3LO4> (<http://wapo.st/14W3LO4>)

WALKING BACK DODD-FRANK: At the end of the last Congress, Wall Street scored two major victories in the push to water down financial regulations. The New York Times looks at how banks and investment firms are planning incremental steps toward a big win: <http://nyti.ms/14W9zak> (<http://nyti.ms/14W9zak>)

NEW JOINT FUNDRAISING COMMITTEES (Members of JFC):