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## **Podesta Group Continues Expansion with Six New Senior Strategists**

*Firm bulks up its bipartisan public affairs practice with addition of six heavyweight policy experts*

WASHINGTON – Tony Podesta, chairman of the Podesta Group, announced today that the firm has hired six new expert strategists, continuing the firm’s recent expansion. Teal Baker, Peggy Binzel, Beth Inadomi, Aranthan “AJ” Jones II, Andrew Lewin and Robert Taylor will bolster all areas of the firm’s practice as principals, providing heft in its financial services, telecommunications, technology and defense teams.

“The Podesta Group is very fortunate to add such a talented and experienced group to our A-Team of strategists and policy experts,” said Podesta. “Teal, Peggy, Beth, AJ, Andy and Bob come from a wide variety of backgrounds, but what they have in common is an in-depth knowledge of what it takes to get results in the new Washington.”

A former high-level director with the Obama for America campaign, Teal Baker conducts outreach to the Obama administration for Podesta Group clients. Teal returns to the Podesta Group after working on Barack Obama’s presidential campaign as the National Director of Surrogates and, most recently, as the Director of Entertainment for the Presidential Inaugural Committee.

Peggy Binzel will provide strategic government relations counsel to the Podesta Group’s clients, utilizing her experience garnered from years of representing the interests of such broadcasting and telecommunications groups as the National Cable & Telecommunications Association, The News Corporation and Turner Broadcasting. She will also work closely with the firm’s management to extend the firm’s business development.

Beth Inadomi, a recognized leader in technology policy, heads the Podesta Group’s San Francisco office. In her more than 20 years of experience in public policy, she has held positions in local, state and federal governments. She served on Capitol Hill as Staff Counsel for the US Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee, and she was appointed to the Science, Space and Technology cluster of the 1992 Presidential Transition team. Beth also headed the external relations organization for the NASA Ames Research Center in Mountain View, California – a top aeronautical and computational research laboratory.

Aranthan “AJ” Jones II, formerly Policy Director for the Office of Majority Whip James Clyburn (D-SC), makes the move to the Podesta Group to join his former colleague Jaime Harrison and strengthen the firm’s health care, financial services and transportation practices. AJ, an up-and-coming star in the Democratic Party, has served as Chief of Staff for members on the Ways and Means committee and

Financial Service committee. AJ was cited by the *Politico* newspaper as one of the top 10 Democratic staffers in the 110th Congress and *The Hill* newspaper as one of the "Top 35 staffers under 35."

Andy Lewin comes to the Podesta Group from Zurich Financial Services, where he was Assistant Vice President for Government and Industry Affairs. At the Podesta Group, he strengthens the firm's blossoming financial services practice. Previously, Andy served as Legislative Director in the offices of Rep. Dennis Moore (D-KS) and Rep. Max Sandlin (D-TX).

Bob Taylor, a noted defense policy expert, joins the Podesta Group after serving as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Senate Affairs. He formerly served as general counsel to then-Republican Leader Don Nickles (R-OK), before moving to the same position for the Senate Budget Committee. Prior to working at the Pentagon, Bob was the legislative director in the office of Senator John Thune (R-SD). Taylor will work closely with the Podesta Group's expert defense and national security team, which already includes John Shank, a former top level defense appropriations strategist.

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*The Podesta Group is a bipartisan government relations and public relations firm located in Washington, DC. Clients include Google, Wal-Mart, BP, Textron, National Confectioners Association, Genzyme and Genentech.*