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SENIOR CONGRESSIONAL POLICY AND PRESS STRATEGIST ISRAEL KLEIN JOINS PODESTA GROUP

Tony Podesta, Chairman of the Podesta Group, today announced that Israel "Izzy" Klein, a senior Senate and House communications and policy strategist, will be joining the firm as a Principal in February. Klein currently serves as Deputy Staff Director for Communications for the Joint Economic Committee (JEC), chaired by Senator Charles E. Schumer (D-NY), the third-ranking Democrat in the US Senate.

"Izzy has that rare combination of policy smarts and communications expertise that makes him the perfect fit for our team," said Podesta announcing Klein's new position. "Our clients are ready to tap into his expertise on a range of hot burner issues."

Klein managed the JEC's communications efforts, spotlighting serious concerns and complicated problems beginning with the subprime mortgage crisis as the U.S. and global economy entered the current recession. He jumpstarted the Committee's work on important issues, including the rise of sovereign wealth funds, energy independence, and the housing and financial crisis. Under Schumer's two year chairmanship of the JEC, Klein significantly increased the visibility and prominence of the committee from previous Congresses.

Klein started work with Senator Schumer as Communications Director, where he spearheaded the senior New York Senator's communications strategy for his work on the Senate Finance, Banking, Housing and Urban Development, and Judiciary Committees. Klein managed the Senator's national media operation for everything from Supreme Court nominations and China trade legislation to the Dubai Ports World takeover of major U.S. seaports.

Before he arrived in the Senate, Klein worked in a number of senior capacities for Congressman Edward J. Markey of Massachusetts. In Klein's six years with Markey, he served as Political Director, National Finance Director, Press Secretary and Legislative Assistant, and Senior Communications Adviser. Klein shaped communications plans around the Congressman's work in the energy, environment, telecommunications and homeland security arenas. Klein got his start in politics with then-House Democratic Leader Richard A. Gephardt as a deputy finance director on his re-election campaign.

Klein received his B.A. in government and theology from Georgetown University, where he was also the President of the Georgetown and D.C. College Democrats.

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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, Warburg Pincus, Textron, Genzyme and Genentech.