

Raymond E. Rodriguez

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Office of House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, U.S. House of Representatives

National Press Secretary, Washington, D.C.

May 2022- Present

- Prepare the Majority Leader for national TV, radio, and print interviews focusing on the Congressional agenda and Democrats' legislative accomplishments in the House of Representatives.
- Write media memorandums with top-level talking points that the Majority Leader uses to tackle press interviews and press briefings.
- Serve as the spokesperson for the Majority Leader when dealing with the D.C. and political press corps covering the House of Representatives.
- Organize and execute weekly "Pen and Pad" press briefings for the Majority Leader to inform the Hill press corps about the House's legislative agenda and provide his commentary on the main issues of the day. Develop talking points to prepare the Majority Leader ahead of the press briefings.

Office of Congressman Ritchie Torres, U.S. House of Representatives

Communications Director, Washington, D.C.

January 2021-April 2022

- Handled media relations, press outreach, and communications for the first openly-gay Afro-Latino Member of Congress. Pitched and landed earned media stories in local, city-wide, national, and Spanish-language outlets on legislation introduced and enacted, initiatives the Member works on, events in the District, and profiles.
- Devised and executed social media and digital strategy to communicate with constituents and followers in the digital sphere.
- Successfully landed the Congressman in national TV and radio outlets, and national publications to discuss his efforts to expand the Child Tax Credit, cancel student debt, protect public housing and more.

Office of Council Member Ritchie Torres, New York City Council

Deputy Chief of Staff & Communications Director, New York City, NY

April 2015- December 2020

- Handled media relations, press outreach and communications for the youngest elected official in NYC. Pitched and placed stories in local, city-wide and national outlets on legislation introduced and enacted, initiatives the Member works on, events in the District, and profiles.
- Landed stories on the Council Member's work in a wide range of print, radio and TV media outlets including the New Yorker, NYTimes, Daily News, Politico, WNYC, NY1, MSNBC, and others.
- Devised and executed the Member's legislative agenda by overseeing and guiding his legislation through the Council's legislative process.
- Worked with the Council's Legislative Division to draft and introduce the Member's legislation on a range of issues including affordable housing, school integration, police reform and workers' rights. Successfully enacted into law innovative legislation on civil forfeiture reform, protection for industrial laundry workers, and expansion of career training for public housing residents.
- Represented the Member at meetings with advocacy groups, legal organizations, non-profits and unions that have business with the City Council, would like City funding, or seek advice on advancing legislation.

Berlin Rosen Public Affairs

Associate, New York City, NY

January 2012- April 2015

- Devised and executed press strategies for nonprofits, legal groups, labor unions and issue-based campaigns with legislation before the NYC Council and state legislature focusing on diverse issues including affordable housing, childhood education, prison reform and workers' rights.
- Handled press outreach and communication strategy for the Vendy Awards, New York's premiere food truck competition, including pitching features on vendors, street food and restaurants. Vendy's media exposure in 2014 lead to a sold-out event with over 2,000 participants.
- Drafted press advisories, press releases, talking points, and statements for clients that have led to stories in national, local and ethnic media outlets including the NY Times, Wall St. Journal, Forbes, Fortune, Daily

News, El Diario, CNN, Huffington Post, AOL, Yahoo, NPR and others.

- Wrote and placed op-eds and LTEs on behalf of clients including City Council Members and Executive Directors of advocacy groups with successful placement in top-tier local and national media outlets.
- Represented prominent legal services organizations and nonprofits including Freelancers Union, Newspaper Guild of New York, and the Street Vendor Project's Vandy Awards.

Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders

Senior Legal Assistant, Boston, MA

September 2009- December 2011

- Performed legal and legislative research for New England's leading legal rights organization focused on litigating cases to end discrimination against gay and lesbian people, including successful marriage-equality cases in MA and CT.
- Drafted, edited, and oversaw the production of memos, motions, and briefs to state and federal courts, adhering to strict citation rules, for cases dealing with the overturn of the federal Defense of Marriage Act.
- Provided administrative support to seven attorneys including document preparation for court filings, maintaining database of briefs, and communicating with plaintiffs.

Congressional Hispanic Caucus Internship- Rep. Kathy Castor (FL), Washington, D.C.

Summer 2008

- Selected from a nationwide application process to be one of thirty Congressional Interns as part of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus' Internship Program.
- Attending policy briefings, researched legislative issues and produced policy memos pertaining to poverty, healthcare, and foreign affairs.

EDUCATION

Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH

June 2009

- Bachelor of Arts in Sociology; Minor in Public Policy and Women & Gender Studies
- *Languages*: Fluent in Spanish; proficient in French