

MATTHEW LEHNER

(b)(6)

12 YEARS OF GOVERNMENT, CAMPAIGN & PRIVATE SECTOR EXPERIENCE

8 YEARS OF ADMINISTRATION, CAPITOL HILL & MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE

U.S. Department of Transportation | Federal Railroad Administration | Obama Administration—Washington, D.C.

Public Affairs Director

2015—2017

- Led crisis communications and public affairs response that ultimately resulted in reversal of negative narrative surrounding the agency's safety oversight after Amtrak derailed outside of Philadelphia in 2015, the deadliest train crash in decades
- Developed \$7-million ad campaign (message, script, visuals) featured on TODAY Show to prevent deaths at railroad crossings
- Restructured \$7.1M budget, managed 8 civil servants to drive narratives on agency's priorities in a new, digital news environment

Sen. Mary L. Landrieu | Homeland Security Approps. Subcommittee | Senate Energy Committee—Washington, D.C.

Communications Director

2013—2015

Deputy Communications Director

2011—2013

Social Media Coordinator

2010—2011

- Lead press staffer for Homeland Security Appropriations chair during BP Oil Spill, Hurricane Sandy, flood insurance reauthorization
- Managed 10-person team and coordinated unified message that increased story, TV placement highlighting Senator's effectiveness
- Produced message campaigns with traditional and digital components that led to three laws; was recognized by Senate leadership

Representative Melissa L. Bean—Washington, D.C.

Press Assistant

2010

- Managed front office and five interns to keep office operations running efficiently for member, staff and constituents

3 COMPETITIVE STATEWIDE U.S. SENATE CAMPAIGNS

Al Gross for U.S. Senate—Anchorage, Alaska

Senior Adviser

Sept.—Nov. 2020

- Sent to Alaska to put race into competition for the 2020 cycle, where Sullivan had to “fight for his own political life”
- Crafted communications strategy and ran debate prep for two debates to keep candidate competitive in final stretch

Mary Landrieu for U.S. Senate—New Orleans, La.

Communications Director

Sept.—Dec. 2014

- Secured every newspaper endorsement in the state—a first in Landrieu's 30-year career
- Prepared candidate for five debates, including runoff debate, in one of the most competitive Senate races in the country
- Served as lead press staffer for presidential campaign rally with former President Bill Clinton

Joe Donnelly for U.S. Senate—Indianapolis, Ind.

Press Staffer

Oct.—Nov. 2012

- Advanced campaign stops and press conferences for winning U.S. Senate race
- Scripted, edited and produced two HD web ads and wrote corresponding press releases

3 YEARS OF ADVOCATING FOR CLEAN ENERGY, TRANSPORTATION

Top Hat Strategies LLC—Washington, D.C. & Chicago, Ill.

Founder & Owner

Sept. 2018—present

- Earned two public affairs awards for strategy and execution that positioned Lime scooters as leader on safety, transportation access in crowded field of 10 Chicago operators resulting in a return of scooters in 2020, despite public skepticism and city scrutiny
- Develop and execute digital grassroots campaigns for environmental nonprofits, labor organizations

Uptake Technologies—Chicago, Ill. [Industrial Artificial Intelligence]

Head of External Relations for Energy, Transportation and Defense

2017 - 2018

- Led public affairs strategy for company to provide Department of Defense with AI for Bradley Fighting Vehicle, M88
- Prepared CEO, senior executives for media interviews, including at World Economic Forum annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland

EDUCATION

Saint Louis University—St. Louis, Mo.

Honors Bachelor of Arts in Communication with minor in Political Science; Summa Cum Laude; Phi Beta Kappa

ORGANIZATIONS, LANGUAGE & SKILLS

- Served on Biden campaign infrastructure policy committee; Fluent in American Sign Language; part of the LGBTQ community.