

## Contact

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(LinkedIn)

## Top Skills

Strategic Communications  
Press Releases  
Editing

# Colin Finan

Professional with 20 years of experience in communications and project management.

Washington, District of Columbia, United States

## Summary

Professional with 20 years of experience in communications and project management. Results-oriented leader. Skilled at forming coalitions of disparate stakeholders. Extensive knowledge of environmental and food policy issues at the state and federal levels.

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## Experience

### USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Senior Advisor

November 2021 - Present (1 year 9 months)

Washington, District of Columbia, United States

### McCabe Message Partners

Vice President

December 2019 - August 2021 (1 year 9 months)

Washington D.C. Metro Area

### Dinesafe.org

Director, Government Relations and Business Development

January 2019 - December 2019 (1 year)

Washington D.C. Metro Area

DineSafe runs a foodborne illness crowd-sourcing platform called IWasPoisoned.com that is best known for detecting the outbreaks linked to Chipotle in recent years that cost the company billions of dollars in lost market capital as a result.

Our company provides a range of services to help detect and prevent outbreaks, limit negative media coverage and provide bench-marking and customer-care services. In addition, thousands of restaurants and public health agencies are using our services throughout the U.S.

### The Pew Charitable Trusts

9 years 8 months

## Manager, Safe Food Project

April 2011 - December 2018 (7 years 9 months)

Washington, District of Columbia, United States

Managed all federal and state advocacy for the landmark and bipartisan Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA), the most significant overhaul of the nation's food safety law since the Great Depression. During this time administered a multi-million dollar annual budget and staff of seven. Provided guidance in operational efficiency, information exchange, and decision-making processes with key stakeholders.

- Formulated speeches, reports, policy briefs, and presentations to address a wide range of audiences including top government officials and members of Congress.
- Managed campaigns to influence creation of seven major FSMA regulations.
- Drafted regulatory language, coordinated media outreach, met with FDA officials, facilitated roundtables with industry and consumer advocates, and organized scientific research.
- Coordinated all lobbying efforts that secured more than a \$300 million increase for FDA to conduct food safety oversight.
- Directed the relationships with victims of foodborne illness, many of whom testified at FDA and state field hearings and appeared in the media.
- Led media outreach to eliminate several "poison pill" efforts to gut the food safety law in Congress.

## Senior Associate, Communications for The Pew Health Group

May 2009 - April 2011 (2 years)

Managed the strategic communications and press relations for Pew's food safety campaign. During this period, I oversaw an effort that was responsible for more than 1,000 news articles, broadcast appearances and opinion pieces that helped lead to congressional approval of the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (<http://www.fda.gov/food/foodsafety/fsma/default.htm>).

## Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

Public Affairs & Policy Associate

December 2007 - April 2009 (1 year 5 months)

Wrote and edited policy reports and briefs, press releases, congressional testimony, opinion pieces and other materials for the Project on Emerging Nanotechnologies. In addition, I was a source and quoted expert on nanotechnology issues for many news organizations in the United States and Canada.

## Inside Washington Publishers

Associate Editor, Inside EPA

August 2004 - November 2007 (3 years 4 months)

Primarily wrote and edited articles about the federal regulatory process at the Environmental Protection Agency and the departments of Interior and Energy. Developed a deep understanding of Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) and oversight of emerging technologies. In addition, I provided extensive coverage of federal environmental litigation.

## Rio Grande SUN

Staff Writer

July 2003 - July 2004 (1 year 1 month)

Covered state and local politics, as well as some crime and sports, for the independently owned newspaper in northern New Mexico (<http://riograndesun.com/>).

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## Education

University of Wisconsin-Madison

BA, History · (1999 - 2003)