

Joel Freedman

Consultant, Gephardt Government Affairs



Joel Freedman brings over 30 years experience specializing in legislative and regulatory affairs, having most recently served for 18 years as Senior Vice President, Associate General Counsel and Director of Government Affairs for The Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc. Joel stewarded state and federal government relations strategies and activities for the *Fortune 100* company's executive team during numerous high-profile industry crises. Joel also directed the company's opening of its first Washington, DC office, acting as the company's chief federal spokesperson and directing several key industry coalitions.

Joel joined Gephardt Government Affairs as a Consultant in 2009 and specializes in banking, tax and financial issue areas. In his current role, he provides strategic advice and counsel to clients' executive-level teams in addition to representing clients before Congress, the Administration and the White House.

At the time of his tenure at The Hartford, the company rose to the nation's 75th largest company and faced a growing expansion of federal regulation of the insurance sector. He was instrumental in the defeat by one vote of Asbestos Trust Fund legislation. He also provided legal counsel on landmark reforms including the Homeowners' Insurance Availability Act of 1997 and formulation of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002 and its 2004 and 2007 reauthorizations.

Prior to his tenure at The Hartford, Joel spent over 10 years in Connecticut's legal and insurance sectors. He served as an Assistant Vice President at Connecticut General, and following its merger with INA, at CIGNA for four years. Joel also served as General Counsel of the Insurance Association of Connecticut for four years. Joel began his career at a Hartford law firm and was counsel to the Connecticut Judicial Department.

In the course of his career, Joel has testified before Congress as an expert in legislative and regulatory issues for the insurance sector. He has been a frequent spokesperson on behalf of The Hartford and the financial services industry and has consistently been looked to for expertise by *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal* and insurance industry publications. Joel earned both a bachelor's degree and juris doctorate degrees from the University of Connecticut.

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