

## **Michael Messmer**

Vice President, Gephardt Government Affairs

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Michael Messmer brings a decade of foreign and defense policy experience, having served as a member of the leadership staff to House Democratic Leader Richard Gephardt for six years. From 1999 to 2002, Mike monitored and advised Gephardt and his senior team on legislation and policy ranging from international human rights, missile defense, NATO expansion, counterterrorism, and defense modernization, among others.

Mike provided analysis of congressional oversight of post-September 11th homeland security and intelligence policies, including for example the House Democratic Task Force on Homeland Security led by then-Congressman Bob Menendez (D-NJ). He advised Gephardt on individuals under consideration for nomination to various commissions (e.g., United States Commission on International Religious Freedom and the U.S. Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad), and participated in many congressional and staff delegations to the Middle East, Europe and Asia.

Mike joined Gephardt Government Affairs at its inception in 2007. He provides clients with legislative strategy, policy analysis and direct advocacy on Capitol Hill. He also provides the firm's philanthropic clients with long-term planning surrounding global health initiatives. During his years on Capitol Hill, he monitored federal coordination of policy and funding to combat global pandemics for Gephardt, widely recognized for his personal interest in human rights and recognition of the fight against HIV/AIDS as the "moral imperative of our time."

From 2004 to 2006, he served at the Council on Foreign Relations as Assistant Director of the Congress and U.S. Foreign Policy Program. While at the Council, he oversaw the development and implementation of a number of nonpartisan initiatives designed to create a higher degree of collaboration between members of the foreign policy and congressional communities, including member and staff briefings, delegation preparations and outreach to both freshmen members and congressional chiefs of staff.

Mike earned a Masters Degree in Regional and Urban Planning Studies from the London School of Economics. He hails from St. Louis, Missouri and earned a Bachelors Degree in Politics from Catholic University in Washington, DC.

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