

Tom O'Donnell

Co-Founder and Managing Partner, Gephardt Government Affairs



Tom O'Donnell co-founded Gephardt Government Affairs in 2007 and now serves as the firm's managing partner. In his current role, O'Donnell represents Fortune 500 clients on Capitol Hill and before the Administration on issues including climate change and energy, financial services, healthcare, trade, tax, defense, and intellectual property protection and enforcement. He also directs clients in their outreach to organized labor based on his longtime experience liaising with union leadership.

From 1997-2007, O'Donnell served as a partner at Doak, Carrier, O'Donnell and Goldman (DCO), a leading political consulting media firm, where he developed messages for key constituencies and directed broadcast media blitzes to produce wins including current House Budget Committee Ranking Member Chris Van Hollen, Ohio Senator Sherrod Brown's defeat of a two-term incumbent, Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, and former California Governor Gray Davis.

O'Donnell served as House Majority Leader Dick Gephardt's chief of staff from 1989-1997, acting as Gephardt's lead strategist and field general for, among other landmark fiscal and budgetary pieces of legislation, the Budget Summit Agreement of 1990 and the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993. O'Donnell brings policy expertise spanning three decades and has played pivotal roles in negotiating with the Clinton White House, Senate, and key industry stakeholders.

In the course of his public service, O'Donnell has been touted as a "star consultant" by the *Washington Post* and was recognized each year by Roll Call during his tenure as Gephardt's chief of staff. Currently, O'Donnell serves as one of *National Journal* magazine's Top 100 "Political Insiders" surveyed weekly on newsworthy political and public policy issues and was named to *The Hill's* 2009, 2010, and 2011 Top Lobbyists: Hired Guns list.

O'Donnell earned a Doctorate in Philosophy from American University and a Bachelors in Political Science from SUNY Brockport. A Brooklyn native, he is married to Caroline Fawcett and has three children.