



CGCN GROUP STRENGTHENS TEAM

Integrated Advocacy & Strategic Communications Firm Brings on Senior Mike Crapo Aide, Expands Energy Practice, Announces New Staff Positions

WASHINGTON – Today, the CGCN Group announced that it has expanded its advocacy and policy analysis capabilities by hiring Scott Riplinger, former Legislative Director for Banking Committee Chairman Mike Crapo (R-Idaho), as partner, and Alex Renjel, an infrastructure expert, as Vice President. In addition, the firm unveiled key members of its strategic communications team, as well as a series of staff promotions.

“CGCN’s continued growth and success is a testament to the people who work here every day,” **said Steve Clark, the firm’s founder and Chairman.** “We are better and stronger than ever.”

“We are very excited to roll out these new members of our team,” **said Matt Rhoades, CGCN Co-CEO.** “I’m particularly pleased to announce the talented additions to our expanding and evolving communications staff.”

“Scott and Alex are outstanding additions to the CGCN team,” **said Mike Catanzaro, CGCN’s President and Chief Policy Officer.** “They bring significant policy and legislative expertise from the private sector and the United States Senate. They offer tremendous value for our clients.”

“The client services, growth, and reputation of CGCN are unmatched,” **said Scott Riplinger.** “I couldn’t be more thrilled to bring my expertise to bear for clients and contribute to CGCN’s exceptional 20-year legacy.”

“CGCN has an extremely talented team with a reputation for serving its clients that is second to none,” **said Alex Renjel.** “I look forward to leveraging my experience to benefit clients and support the continued growth of the firm.”

Today, CGCN unveiled a new website that showcases the firm’s unmatched capabilities built on the strength of its team.

Founded in 2000, the CGCN Group is one of the fastest growing, fully integrated Republican advocacy, policy analysis, and strategic communications firms in Washington. With deep ties to House and Senate Republican leadership, key congressional committees, the White House, Executive Branch agencies, and political campaigns, the firm has an unrivaled ability to deliver results for clients.

Last September, the CGCN Group restructured with a new fully integrated strategic communications team headed by Matt Rhoades, former campaign manager for Mitt Romney’s 2012 Presidential campaign, along with Antonia Ferrier, a former senior communications’ staffer for Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY), who serves as the firm’s Chief Strategic Communications Officer.

Last month, CGCN Law was launched by Justin Schwab, former Deputy General Counsel of the Environmental Protection Agency. CGCN Law is a legally separate entity from the CGCN Group. The two firms have a strategic relationship.

In addition, CGCN has a partnership with United By Interest, the only bipartisan, majority-minority owned lobbying firm in Washington.

Below is more detailed biographical information on Scott and Alex, followed by the key members of the communications team, and staff promotions at the firm.

Scott Riplinger, Partner:

Having served on Capitol Hill for nearly 15 years in leadership roles for two members of the Senate Finance and Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committees, Scott Riplinger has successfully crafted and advanced tax and financial services legislation while cultivating extensive knowledge and expertise in housing, commerce, trade, energy, and appropriations policy.

Scott served as Legislative Director for Chairman Mike Crapo and former Senator Dean Heller (R-NV), including serving as a liaison for the Senate Chief Deputy Whip where he worked hand in hand with Senate leadership. Scott also served as Majority Staff Director for the Securities, Insurance, and Investment Subcommittee where he worked on policy related to the US Securities and Exchange Commission as well as US Treasury Department domestic and international regulations. He began his career with former House Small Business Committee Chairman, Don Manzullo (R-IL).

Originally from the Midwest, Scott lives in Arlington, Virginia with his wife Lauren.

Alex Renjel, Vice President:

Alex brings over a decade of experience working in infrastructure in both the public and private sector. He started his career working for Sen. Jim Inhofe (R-OK), then Ranking Member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, where he helped draft and pass the transportation authorization, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21). Alex most recently spent four years in the private sector working for a global infrastructure developer where he helped the team initiate investments and develop strategic partnerships with private and public stakeholders to develop infrastructure projects.

Aside from his deep knowledge of infrastructure policy, his experience in infrastructure spans investments, strategic partnerships, and innovative business operations. Alex brings a proven track record of aligning the incentives of different parties to create multi-stakeholder partnerships. This includes bringing together corporate strategy, third party investors, and multiple government bodies to deliver infrastructure solutions.

Alex lives in Washington DC with his wife and two children. He is a native of Maryland, earned a B.S. in physics and math from Roanoke College, and an MBA from University of Maryland's Smith School of Business.

Below are some of the key communications staff at CGCN:

- **Tim Killeen:** Senior Vice President
- **Julia Cotrone:** Senior Vice President
- **Eva Bandola:** Vice President
- **Joey Rose:** Creative Director
- **Liam Anderson:** Senior Associate

In addition, CGCN announced a series of promotions:

- **Janelle Gardner:** Senior Vice President of Operations
- **Courtney Schneider:** Director of Finance and Accounts Management
- **Tatum Martinez:** Director of Client Relations
- **Lauren O'Donnell:** Director of Compliance and Human Resources

###