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Rising Star of Democratic Party to Join Podesta Group

Jaime Harrison Brings Additional Muscle to One of the Fastest-Growing Lobbying Firms in Washington

Tony Podesta, Chairman of the Podesta Group, today announced that Jaime R. Harrison will be joining the firm as a Principal in November. Harrison currently serves as Director of Floor Operations and Counsel for Majority Whip James E. Clyburn in the House of Representatives. Harrison is the first African-American to serve as Floor Director for a leader of the House of Representatives.

“Jaime is smart and politically savvy and has had a stellar career in Congress,” Podesta said. “His knowledge of the legislative process and the leaders who make it work will be a real asset to our firm and its clients.”

Prior to serving in the Majority Whip’s office, Harrison was the Executive Director of the House Democratic Caucus. In this capacity, he oversaw the day-to-day operations of the House Democratic Caucus and participated in the development of national strategy, message, and policy for the Democratic Party. As Executive Director, he broke two barriers – first, as one of the youngest individuals to hold the position, and second as the first African-American to hold the position.

Harrison was named by *The Hill* newspaper as one of the “35 Stellar Staffers Under 35,” by *Roll Call* as one of its “Fabulous 50 Staffers” on Capitol Hill, and by *National Journal* as one of “The Hill People of 2007.”

“Jaime will be joining a top-notch team of strategists with unparalleled policy expertise and political contacts at the firm,” Podesta added. “Our team already includes another former Caucus leader, Andrew Kauders, who preceded Harrison as Executive Director of the House Democratic Caucus.”

Harrison also has experience in the nonprofit arena. He became one of the youngest nonprofit executives in the country when he accepted a position as Chief Operations Officer of College Summit, Inc. College Summit, Inc. is a national nonprofit organization that works with communities to help students from low-income backgrounds successfully enroll in college.

Harrison began his career as a world geography teacher at his high school alma mater in Orangeburg, South Carolina. He then came to Washington to become a Congressional Black Caucus Foundation intern and later rejoined the office of Congressman Jim Clyburn as a Policy Advisor. He also served as Political Director for the South Carolina Democratic Party’s Victory 2004 campaign on behalf of US Senate candidate Inez Tenenbaum.

Harrison received his Juris Doctor from Georgetown University Law Center and a B.A. in political science from Yale University.

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The Podesta Group is a bipartisan government relations and public relations firm located in Washington, DC. Clients include Google, Wal-Mart, BP, Warburg Pincus, Textron, Genzyme and Genentech.