

RICH THOMAS



Rich Thomas is a seasoned Washington veteran and political operative who is well known for his extensive bipartisan contacts throughout the federal government. While providing advice and guidance for a senior Democratic congressman, he garnered a consistent record of success in navigating the legislative maze of Capitol Hill. Rich now offers public policy, political, and strategic business advice to Fortune 500 corporations, small companies, trade associations, and nonprofits, with a focus on international trade, intellectual property, customs, taxation, and homeland security.

Since joining Monument Advocacy in 2008, Rich has partnered with clients to devise strategies and campaigns on some of the most important issues debated in Washington. He has been involved in every bilateral and multilateral trade agreement, and is currently working for a number of client priorities within the Trans Pacific Partnership Agreement, the Transatlantic and Investment Partnership, and various country-specific market access issues.

Before joining the firm, Rich served as Legislative Director to Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr. (D-NJ), where he supervised both policy and communications staff. Rich was responsible for the Congressman's activity on the House Ways and Means Committee and the International Trade Subcommittee. In that role, Rich focused on key issues including intellectual property protection, U.S.-China trade, and miscellaneous tariff legislation. His experience also included assisting in the Peru Free Trade Agreement, where he collaborated closely with members of both parties and the Administration to help ensure its successful passage.

Rich has also achieved winning results on tax matters for a number of clients by building upon his reservoir of experience from the Hill. He has worked on major tax legislation, such as making permanent the research and development tax credit for businesses, expanding the renewable energy production tax credit, and reforming the Alternative Minimum Tax. Rich helps numerous entities understand the dynamics of the Senate Finance and House Ways and Means committees, and has spent significant time advocating on their behalf in the context of comprehensive tax reform and within budget discussions.

A former Regional Whip staff member, Rich coordinated closely with the House Leadership in floor strategy and vote counting. He maintains excellent relationships with leadership in the House, and also in the Senate and Administration.

Earlier in his career, after completing the Participation 2000 campaign management school, Rich assisted political campaigns in New Jersey, including running a state Assembly race and serving as a strategist for multiple U.S. House and Senate races. He has also assisted campaigns in Wisconsin and Illinois and remains politically active. Rich is also currently active with the New Democrat Coalition, a group of moderate, pro-growth Democrats.

Rich is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and currently lives in Washington, D.C.