

JOEL EPSTEIN, J.D.

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SUMMARY

Award-winning communications and campaign strategist, foundation director, corporate philanthropy leader, startup chief of staff. Transportation and urban policy focus.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Communications Strategy | New York & Los Angeles | 2003 – 2005, 2009 – Present

Principal

- Corporate communications and campaign advising for Galooli, HNTB, Latham & Watkins, Los Angeles Metro, Munger Tolles & Olson LLP, Outfront/JCDecaux, UCLA, the ULI Los Angeles and others; writing, social media and PR.
- Chief of Staff for a startup which offered solar powered pods during the pandemic for restaurants.
- Chief Talent Officer for Bliss Lawyers (acquired by Axiom).
- Advisor to The Annenberg Foundation, Brooklyn Community Services (BCS), Lynda.com and others on philanthropic giving, operations, entrepreneurship and employee engagement.
- Partnership development, outreach, communications and campaign strategist for L.A. Metro's Measures M and J, and in support of improved transportation and economic development in New York, Los Angeles and elsewhere.
- Informed readers about employee engagement, transportation and business innovation in Asia, Europe, Latin America, the Middle East and North America through [writing](#) for *HuffPost* and other publications.
- Experience managing employees and consultants and in project management.

The Wonderful Company (Roll Global LLC) & The Resnick Foundation | Los Angeles

Director of Charitable Giving & Political Director | 2005 – 2009

- Created and managed the employee and community engagement program at The Wonderful Company and ran The Resnick Foundation. Helped raise corporate profile and achieve measurable results in employee recruitment and retention for the \$4.5B global holding company and its subsidiaries in agricultural and consumer product goods.
- Vetted thousands of proposals in the education, health, arts, entrepreneurship, environmental and biomedical fields. Helped create a company-founded college preparatory charter school in Delano, CA.
- Built partnerships and managed a unique, bilingual English/Spanish employee giving program serving 3,500 employees in 10 countries. Grew participation from zero to 98 percent and \$2.4 M; directed distribution of \$16 M in grants; administered the proceeds of a \$25 M legal settlement to 15 international organizations and charities.

- Set performance metrics, directed the development of communications plans and counseled C-level executives on meeting community investment objectives.
- Crisis communications advising on criticism about the export of bottled water from Fiji to North America, Europe and Asia and animal testing of a company product.
- Vetted political candidates; speech writing for C suite executives.

Education Development Center, Inc. | Boston & Los Angeles | 1996 – 2003

Director of Special Projects

- Advised university attorneys, risk managers, college administrators, parents, students and others on legal and health policy matters and operations.
- Crisis communications advising to colleges and universities.
- Project management, business and partnership development.

Abt Associates Inc. | Cambridge, MA | 1992 – 1996

Analyst

- Directed research studies on best practices in social policy and environmental enforcement. Studied police department and prosecutors office operations.
- Coauthored reports on health, housing and criminal justice policy for policy makers, prosecutors and law enforcement.

LANGUAGES

Spanish and French speaker

EDUCATION

Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, J.D.

University of Michigan, B.A.

HONORS

Los Angeles Press Club, Southern California Journalism Awards, Best Individual Blog

Streetsblog Los Angeles, Best Online Columnist

Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles, Award of Recognition

City of Los Angeles, Certificate of Appreciation

State Bar of California, Commendation for providing pro bono legal services

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Author of [articles](#), [opinion pieces](#) and a book

Super Steward, New York City Parks Department