

JOEL EPSTEIN, J.D.

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SUMMARY

Communications and campaign strategist, government affairs professional and award-winning writer.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Communications Strategy | New York & Los Angeles | 2009 – Present

Principal

- Transportation writer for HNTB.
- 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 transportation and business innovation in Asia, Europe, Latin America, the Middle East and North America through writing for *HuffPost* and other publications.
- Senior policy advisor to Brooklyn Community Services (BCS).
- 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

Senior Attorney & 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