



For Immediate Release

July 13, 2021

Media Contact

Erik Olson: (202) 629-5829

Longtime Top Democratic Senate Aide Joins Venn Former Chief to Sen. Whitehouse Adds Deep Expertise Across Critical Policy Issues

WASHINGTON, DC – The Management Team of Venn Strategies, a nationally recognized public affairs and government relations firm twice named among the fastest-growing private companies in the United States (the “Inc. 5000”), announced that **Sam Goodstein, long-time chief of Staff to Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), is joining the firm as Executive Vice President.**

Goodstein brings nearly two decades of experience working at the highest levels, and at the crossroads between policy and politics, in the Senate. A key aide to Whitehouse since the Senator took office in 2007, Goodstein has worked across all the issue areas important to Venn’s client base – from trade and tax to judiciary matters, from the environment to health policy -- as the top aide to Whitehouse, a senior member of the Senate Finance, Budget, Judiciary & Environment and Public Works Committees. Before serving as the Senator’s Chief of Staff, he was his Legislative Director and, before that, his Chief Counsel. Prior to joining Whitehouse, Goodstein was Legislative Counsel to Senator Ken Salazar (D-CO), the newly appointed U.S. Ambassador to Mexico. He was also a staff member on the Senate Democratic Policy Committee. Before his 16-year tenure in the Senate, Goodstein worked as an attorney for a voter mobilization organization and two law firms, concentrating in regulatory and intellectual property law.

Goodstein will work across the firm’s practice areas and will be an especially important asset – together with Emilia Disanto, former counsel to Senator Chuck Grassley R-IA), now the ranking Judiciary Committee member and a top Republican on the Finance Committee -- to the firm’s Oversight and Investigations practice.

“There are very few people in national policy and politics with Sam’s broad reach, issue expertise, and stellar reputation,” said Venn CEO and Founder Stephanie Silverman. “From working on a broad range of policy issues, including matters under the jurisdiction of some of the most powerful Senate committees such as Judiciary, Finance, Budget and Environment and Public Works, Sam has been deep in the trenches of federal policymaking, and this makes his political intuition unparalleled. We are very excited to have him onboard.”

Along with the news of Goodstein’s addition to the firm, Venn’s Management Team also announced several promotions for key staff in the firm’s Healthcare Practice. These include:

- **Dr. Shanta Whitaker**, who was made Senior Vice President and is a leader of the firm’s health policy and population health work. A microbiologist, she joined the firm in 2018 after working as a health policy consultant to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, among others;
- **Claire Onyechi**, who was made Vice President, also joined Venn in 2018 from her position as Associate Director of the Senate Democratic Steering and Outreach Committee, serving both Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) and then-Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY);
- **Jakara Eason**, who was made Assistant Vice President, and manages multi-platform stakeholder initiatives and grassroots engagement; and
- **Mariah Philips**, who was made Senior Associate, and is a former staffer to Rep. Joe Kennedy (D-MA) joined the firm in 2020 from Amnesty International.

###

About Venn Strategies

Twice recognized among the fastest-growing private companies in the United States, Venn Strategies is a full-service, bipartisan government relations and public affairs firm. The firm’s expertise lies in matters of economic

policy, health care, infrastructure and oversight and investigations, offering clients a wide range of deliverables in advocacy, issue management, coalition management and strategic advisory services from former top aides in the White House, Congress, leading industry advocacy groups and Fortune 500 corporations. Visit www.vennstrategies.com for more information.