

About the Author

Deanna R. Gelak has worked in the legislative branch, executive branch, and private/nonprofit sector arenas since 1984. She is founder and president of Working for the Future, LLC, a public policy firm that advises organizational spokespersons and citizen leaders on effective political involvement and communication strategies.

Ms. Gelak served two terms as the president of the American League of Lobbyists, the national professional association for lobbyists. In that capacity, she served as chair of the board and the national spokesperson for the advocacy profession.

She has promoted the importance of effective and ethical lobbying in such venues as C-SPAN's *Washington Journal*, National Public Radio's *Talk of the Nation*, and the National Press Club. Her press interviews have also included: NBC Nightly News, MSNBC, Associated Press, Scarborough Country, Fox News, several National Public Radio shows, The Tavis Smiley Show, America's Voice, *Wall Street Journal*, *Time* magazine, *Wall Street Journal* Talk, The Mary Matalin Show, National Press Club, Monitor Radio, Bloomberg, Family News in Focus, *National Journal*, United Press International, *Washington Post*, *Washington Times*, *Roll Call*, *USA Today*, *Investors Business Daily*, CBS Marketwatch.com, *Chicago Tribune*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, Knight Ridder/Tribune, Strategic Finance, *Christian Science Monitor*, *Boston Globe*, *Boston Herald*, *Baltimore Sun*, *Austin Statesman*, *Orlando Sentinel*, *Miami Herald*, *Business Insurance*, *Business Week*, *Parenting*, *Parents*, *Glamour*, and *Working Woman*.

She is a faculty member for TheCapitol.Net, the exclusive provider of Congressional Quarterly Executive Conferences and a certificate trainer for the American League of Lobbyists' Lobbying Certificate Program.

Ms. Gelak assists leaders to more effectively influence public policy. Her communications training method has been used in Afghanistan, Jordan, Morocco, and Iraq. For more than a decade, she has provided congressional briefings, political involvement training programs and consulting to thousands of organizations and individuals, including congressional leadership and committees, the U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and the U.S. Department of Labor. She designed the "mock Congress" for National 4-H to educate high school students from across the nation on how Congress works.

Ms. Gelak has led numerous congressional coalitions. For example, she chaired the national Congressional Coverage Coalition, the successful effort to make labor and civil rights laws applicable to members of Congress and their staffs for the first time in history. Previously, members of Congress were exempt from the labor and civil rights laws that they had passed for the rest of the country.

Ms. Gelak achieved certification as a Senior Professional in Human Resources, which reflects her expertise in human resource policy issues. She is the former director of governmental affairs for the Society for Human Resource Management, a professional society with more than 175,000 professional members, and has authored numerous

articles and publications on various workplace public policy issues. She has achieved significant expertise on work-life balance policy issues and served on a Bureau of National Affairs advisory committee in the area. Ms. Gelak also has worked for the Committee on Education and Labor of the U.S. House of Representatives and as a congressional liaison officer in the executive branch (U.S. Department of Labor).

Originally from Niceville, FL, Ms. Gelak is a graduate of the University of Florida.