

7-13-2015

## Newsroom: McKay '96 to Head Christie Campaign

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### Recommended Citation

Roger Williams University School of Law, "Newsroom: McKay '96 to Head Christie Campaign" (2015). *Life of the Law School (1993- )*. 484.

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# Newsroom

## McKay '96 to Head Christie Campaign

The Washington Post reports that Gov. Chris Christie has tapped Ken McKay '96, a seasoned Republican strategist, to manage his presidential campaign.

**From the Washington Post:** "[Christie hires campaign manager and appoints senior staff](#)" by Philip Rucker



**Morristown, N.J., July 3, 2015:** Gov. Chris Christie has hired [a seasoned Republican strategist](#) to manage his nascent presidential campaign and has recruited other veteran operatives to round out a senior staff that also will include the top advisers who charted his rise in New Jersey.

**Ken McKay [RWU Law '96]**, a well-regarded operative who previously has served as chief of staff at the Republican National Committee and as political director of the Republican Governors Association, has joined the Christie operation as campaign manager.

**Joining McKay** at the top of the Christie campaign is Maria Comella, the governor's longtime communications adviser and close confidante, who is becoming the campaign's chief messaging officer. Comella, who had been deputy chief of staff for communications and planning in the governor's office, will have a broad mandate on the campaign overseeing Christie's message, communications and brand.

Christie advisers provided a list of campaign staffing moves to *The Washington Post*.

Once considered a front-runner for the 2016 nomination, Christie is now far back in a crowded field and will be relying on a small campaign team to guide his comeback.

**McKay will be overseeing the campaign's nuts-and-bolts political operations from the national headquarters in Morristown, N.J.**, while Comella will serve as Christie's right-hand adviser, often traveling with him and helping him hone his message and campaign trail performance. [...]