

Access to Experts



Kelly D. Johnston
Vice President - Government Affairs
Campbell Soup Company

Kelly Johnston joined Campbell in July 2002 as Vice President-Government Affairs. He coordinates activities and relationships with local, state, federal, and international government legislative and regulatory agencies, as well as the company's participation in trade associations. He reports to Ellen Oran Kaden, Senior Vice President, Law and Government Affairs.

Previously, Kelly spent nearly 25 years in Washington, DC, in several leadership positions within the executive and legislative branches of the federal government, politics, and the trade association world. He was Executive Vice President for Government Affairs and Communications at the National Food Processors' Association (NFPA), serving as chief federal and state legislative and political affairs representative and chief media spokesperson for nearly 6 years.

From 1995 to 1997, he was the 28th Secretary of the U.S. Senate, the Senate's chief legislative, financial and administrative officer. Kelly has also served as Staff Director of the Senate Republican Policy Committee; Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs in the U.S. Department of Transportation; and chief of staff or press secretary to three different Members of Congress.

Kelly is active within the food industry and in the community. He is Chairman Emeritus of the Canadian American Business Council (CABC). He is also former Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce of Southern New Jersey. He is a trustee of the New Jersey Agriculture Society. He also serves as vice chair of the Congressional Management Foundation (CMF), a non-profit organization that provides management training and services to the US Congress. He serves on the Board of Directors for the New Jersey Food Council (NJFC) and represents them on the official state government's obesity prevention task force, "Shaping NJ." He serves on the board of Convergence, a nonprofit group dedicated to creative bipartisan public policy resolutions. And in 2010, he was elected Chair of the National Public Affairs Steering Committee for the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM).

Kelly earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in drama and communications in 1976 from the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma, where he has been named to the Alumni Hall of Fame. He attended Georgetown University's Graduate School of Demography in Washington, DC. He has guest lectured on politics, government and communications at several universities, including Yale University, the Annenberg School of Communications at the University of Pennsylvania, and George Washington University's Graduate School of Political Management.

Contact Carol Courter, Manager, Corporate Communications, +1 212 339 0232, courter@conferenceboard.org

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