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**Key Pelosi Advisor to Join Kountoupes Consulting
Melissa Shannon Widely Recognized as Hill Leader on Technology and Rural Issues**

Washington DC - Kountoupes Consulting, one of Washington's premier government affairs consulting boutiques, continues to add top-rated legislative expertise, announcing today that Melissa Shannon will join the firm as a principal. Shannon, a key aide to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), joins the firm on the heels of unprecedented success for Democrats in the 2008 election. The bi-partisan firm, which just marked its one-year anniversary, represents a growing list of clients, including: AdvaMed, National Electrical Manufacturing Association, Personal Care Products Council, Yahoo!, Large Public Power Council, and Best Buy.

"We are thrilled to add Melissa's leadership expertise and unparalleled legislative reputation to our team, experience that is particularly valuable as we begin work with a Democratic White House on January 20th" said Lisa Kountoupes, President of Kountoupes Consulting. "Our clients will not only benefit from her policy expertise, but also her keen political insight into workings of the Congressional Leadership".

Shannon joins Kountoupes Consulting after nearly a decade of service to Speaker Pelosi, most recently as Senior Policy Advisor. There, she crafted the Innovation Agenda, served as the Speaker's liaison to the Women's Caucus, and worked on a diverse portfolio of issues including telecommunications, science and technology, small business, education, labor, agriculture, and veterans policy.

Prior to joining Pelosi's staff, Shannon worked for Congresswoman Nita Lowey (D-NY) and in several legislative, political, and campaign positions in her home state of Montana.

Shannon joins principals Lisa Kountoupes, Julie Hershey Carr, and Lori Denham, who joined the firm earlier this year from the Retail Industry Leaders Association (RILA) where she was Senior Executive Vice President.

Ms. Kountoupes founded the firm last year following 6 years in the private sector. Prior to that she served as President Clinton's House Liaison, Assistant Director of Legislative Affairs at OMB, Special Assistant at the Department of Energy and as an aide to the House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman. Ms. Hershey Carr joined the firm in October of 2007 following two years in the private sector, and a decade as a senior aide to Rep. Joe Pitts (R-PA), a senior member of the Energy and Commerce Committee and the Republican Study Committee.

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