

L. Erin Russell, Ph.D.

3108 Sonia Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89107
Cell: 702-290-4029
lerinrussell@gmail.com

EDUCATION:

- Doctor of Philosophy in Public Affairs** May 2011
University of Nevada, Las Vegas Las Vegas, NV
- Dissertation: *An Evaluation of Interim Sessions in State Legislatures*
 - Honors: Phi Kappa Phi; Pi Alpha Alpha; Golden Key
- Master of Arts in Political Management** July 2001
George Washington University Washington DC
- Dual Bachelor of Arts in Journalism and Political Science** May 2000
University of Nevada, Reno Reno, NV
- Honors: Top Ten Senior Women of the Year; Order of Omega; Greek Woman of the Year

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

- UNITEDHEALTH GROUP** Feb. 2012 – current
Vice President of State Government Affairs Las Vegas, NV
Honors: UHG Government Affairs Department Business Development Inaugural Award (2013)
- Develop and lead the implementation of strategy, relationship development, public policy engagement and overall business advancement initiatives with key state and local policy makers;
 - Serve as primary liaison with state policy leaders as well as between external groups in Nevada, Idaho, Utah and Alaska;
 - Identify emerging policy/political issues to foresee and expand corporate opportunities, mitigate potential business risk, and facilitate ongoing dialogue regarding health care modernization and reform;
 - Work closely with state market CEOs and senior management throughout the various lines of the company's health benefits (UnitedHealthcare) and health services (Optum) business segments;
 - Manage advocacy activities of outside counsel and external grassroots resources for optimal effectiveness;
 - Establish the budget process for political contributions in designated states.
- KAEMPFER CROWELL RENSHAW GRONAUER & FIORENTINO LAW FIRM** Dec. 2005 – Feb. 2012
(formerly known as Kummer, Kaempfer, Bonner, Renshaw and Ferrario Ltd.) Las Vegas, NV
Director of Legislative Affairs (2010 – 2012) & Government Affairs Advocate (2005–2010)
- Advocate on behalf of various clients before the Nevada State Legislature that include but are not limited to: AFLAC, Anheuser-Busch, 7-Eleven, Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway, and Charter Communications;
 - Draft legislation, draft amendments and testifying before legislative committees;
 - Prepare annual goals for the department and provide quarterly updates to the managing partner;
 - Compose draft campaign budgets for the firm as well as legislative clients;
 - Familiar with state elections and campaign reporting requirements, and compile client PAC reports;
 - Closely monitor legislative and regulatory activity that may impact the interests of our clients; and
 - Research policy issues and compile memorandums related to legislative history.
- ASSEMBLY REPUBLICAN CAUCUS** March 2002 – Dec. 2005
Executive Director Las Vegas, NV
- Served as the central communication point for Republic Assembly legislators and the caucus leader;
 - Developed and implemented legislative and campaign strategy with caucus leadership;
 - Managed election campaigns for various Assembly district races by developing strategies, organizing workshops, and raising funds for the caucus and individual races;
 - Communicated to political, community, and business groups; and
 - Wrote media releases and researched policy issues for legislators.
-

OFFICE OF U.S. SENATOR JOHN ENSIGN*Congressional Staff Assistant*

Sept. 2001- Jan. 2002

Washington DC

- Drafted constituent letters, communicated with constituents, and assisted the director of communications;
- Served as front office staff, which included directing calls to the appropriate staff members.

ADDITIONAL INTERNSHIPS:

McCarthy Marcus Hennings: Political Media Consulting Firm

Washington DC

McAuliffe Message Media: Political Media Consulting Firm

Washington DC

Olsen and Associates Public Relations and Special Events Firm

Reno, NV

Office of Nevada Governor Kenny Guinn

Carson City, NV

Office of State Assemblywoman Barbara Cegavske

Carson City, NV

Office of U.S. Senator Richard Bryan

Washington DC

HONORS:Recognized as one of sixteen "Women to Watch" – *Vegas, Inc.* (2013)

Nevada's American Heart Association Annual Heart Ball Gala, Invited Inspirational Speaker (2012)

Featured by the National Stroke Association as a "Champion of Hope" – *Stroke Smart Magazine* (Summer 2011 Ed.)Recognized as one of the "40 under 40" – *In Business Las Vegas* (2011)Recognized as one of ten "Future Leaders" – *Las Vegas Review-Journal* (2010)Recognized as one of ten "Rising Stars" – *Las Vegas Business Press* (2009)

Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce Leadership Las Vegas Graduate (2008)

National recipient by the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) of the Leadership Staff Award (2005)

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

Nevada Association of Health Plans, Board Member/Treasurer (2012 – present)

Spread the Word Nevada, Advisory Council Member (2012 – present)

Nevada Commission on Postsecondary Education, Commissioner (Two gubernatorial appointments: 2007-2013)

Leadership: Chair 2009-2010 and Vice Chair 2008-2009

St. Jude's Ranch for Children in Boulder City, Board Member (2007-2012)

Leadership: Co-Chair & National Board Member 2011-2012 and Vice Chair 2010-2011

American Heart Association / American Stroke Association, engaged in various capacity (2010 – present)

Publications regarding Erin's story of her own stroke recovery have been featured in the *Las Vegas Review Journal* (May 14, 2011), *Stroke Connection Magazine* (July/August 2011 Edition), *Stroke Smart Magazine* (Summer 2011 Edition), and *Volunteer Voice* of the American Heart & Stroke Association Western States Affiliate (October 2011).

University of Nevada, Reno Alumni Association, Board Member (one term: 2010-2013)