



MEDIA AVAILABILITY
September 7, 2010

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MARGARET KLESSIG EDMUNDS JOINS IW

(Tuesday, September 7) – ImmigrationWorks USA president Tamar Jacoby announced today that Margaret Klessig Edmunds has been named IW's chief of staff.

Former chief of staff to Rep. Jeff Flake (R-AZ), Edmunds comes to the job with a deep understanding of immigration issues and of the challenges of moving immigration reform through Congress.

Rep. Flake was one of the principal sponsors of the House companion to the 2005 McCain-Kennedy comprehensive immigration reform bill, and Edmunds was a member of the Senate-House team that negotiated that legislation.

As chief of staff, Edmunds also managed Rep. Flake's Washington DC and Arizona offices. She joined his staff in 2001 as a legislative assistant, then served as legislative director before becoming chief of staff. Before that, she worked for two years in the office of Sen. Jon Kyl (R-AZ) and before that for Rep. Jim Kolbe (R-AZ). She has also worked for Cassidy and Associates, a Washington government relations firm.

"I'm thrilled to have Margaret join us at ImmigrationWorks," Jacoby said. "She brings an intimate knowledge of the Hill and of what it will take to fix the immigration system. She's a perfect fit for our organization – I can't think of anyone better for the job."

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ImmigrationWorks USA is a national federation of small business owners advocating immigration reform. The organization links 25 state-based, pro-immigration business coalitions: employers and trade associations from Florida to Oregon and from every sector of the economy that relies on immigrant workers. IW assists these groups with strategic coordination, messaging and grassroots recruitment as they fight for better immigration law in their states and in Washington. The organization works closely with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Restaurant Association, the National Association of Home Builders, the U.S. Travel Association, the American Farm Bureau Federation and other leading trade groups. Its board of directors includes former U.S. Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez, former AZ Rep. Jim Kolbe and Bill Marriott, chairman and CEO of Marriott International, among others.

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