



**Senior Democratic Appropriations, Leadership Aides Jonathan Gilbert, Sam Coffey Join
KDCR Partners**

Washington, D.C. (September 15, 2026) – Kountoupes Denham Carr & Reid, a premier bipartisan government affairs firm, today announced that Jonathan Gilbert and Sam Coffey are joining the firm as principals. Gilbert and Coffey each bring more than a decade of professional experience in public policy, including as senior Democratic aides in the United States House of Representatives and United States Senate, respectively.

“Jonathan and Sam give our clients two more seasoned hands who know how Congress works from the inside,” said Lisa Kountoupes, founder and president of KDCR Partners. “Between Jonathan’s experience as senior staff to members of the House Appropriations and House Energy and Commerce Committees and Sam’s background staffing Senate floor and Senate Judiciary Committee leadership, they deepen our bench on appropriations, energy, tech, and telecommunications—strengthening the bipartisan team we put in front of every client.”

Gilbert has worked for various members of the California congressional delegation since 2013. Most recently, he served as chief of staff for Rep. Mike Levin (D-CA), a member of the House Appropriations Energy and Water, and Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Subcommittees. His accomplishments as chief of staff include leading efforts to introduce House Democrats' premier transmission policy and energy affordability proposals for the 118th and 119th Congresses, as well as spearheading preparation of the Democratic Caucus' energy policy for next year. As a former senior policy advisor for Rep. Doris Matsui (D-CA), a senior member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee and the co-chair of the House Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition (SEEC), Gilbert also brings a deep understanding of the energy and natural resources landscape. Gilbert is originally from California and has a bachelor’s degree from the University of California, Los Angeles, and a Master of Environmental Management from Duke University.

“Jonathan has been a driver of my office’s success since I was first elected,” said Rep. Levin. “His advice has shaped my energy and climate policy efforts—including our signature issues like clean energy development, nuclear waste cleanup, and beach sand replenishment. I’m particularly



proud that his management and mentorship have helped so many on my staff grow and achieve the goals I've set for them. Jonathan will always have a place on our team.”

Coffey most recently served as deputy floor director and counsel for Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL), the Senate Democratic whip and ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee. There, Coffey provided daily tactical advice on how to advance Democrats' legislative priorities, including through strategic use of the Senate's complex rules, and amendments to major legislation such as appropriations bills and the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). Coffey also has distinguished expertise in antitrust, tech and telecommunications mergers, and judicial oversight, as he prepared Senate Judiciary Committee Democrats for significant policy and oversight hearings. Outside of the United States Senate, he has worked at a law firm, a legal nonprofit, and the White House Office of Presidential Correspondence under the Obama administration. Coffey originally hails from Illinois and has a bachelor's degree from Knox College, and a J.D. from Chicago-Kent College of Law.

Gilbert and Coffey join KDCR as the firm has grown to 70 clients, including ADT, Best Buy, Coca-Cola, Constellation Energy, CVS Health, HP Inc., Pinterest, TerraPower, T-Mobile, and United Way.

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About Kountoupes, Denham, Carr & Reid

Kountoupes Denham Carr & Reid is a bipartisan, results-driven firm that offers clients invaluable counsel in navigating the legislative and political landscape in Washington, D.C.