



Archer Lures NJ State House Veteran

Press Releases

09.13.2013

Archer Lures NJ State House Veteran

By Dan Prochilo

Law360, New York (September 12, 2013, 9:05 PM ET) -- **Archer PC** announced Thursday that the former executive director of the New Jersey Assembly Majority Office has joined the firm as a member of its government affairs group, which backs clients' political advocacy efforts.

Bill Caruso joined the firm, one of the largest in the Garden State, on Monday after spending nearly five years in the state capital during a period rife with landmark legislation, including overhauls of New Jersey's pension and benefits systems for public workers and sweeping reforms to the state's century-old teacher tenure law.

"It was a nice time to be in Trenton. I learned a lot," Caruso told Law360 on Thursday.

As the lead executive of the Assembly Majority Office, Caruso managed a staff of about 30; served as the lead staff negotiator on policy matters; and served as liaison to the governor's office, Senate and state departments. He was also responsible for developing and implementing the Assembly's policy agenda.

He was involved in the passage of critical revisions to the state's teacher tenure rules that streamlined dispute-mediation processes and extended the number of years new teachers had to work to obtain tenure.

Caruso also played a pivotal role in amendments to the health benefits plans offered to state workers, changes that brought employee contributions into better alignment with those in the private sector and changed how their payments were calculated, switching from a percentage of their salaries to a percentage of their premiums, he said.

Before taking the Assembly post, Caruso was chief of staff for 11 years for Rep. Robert Andrews, D-N.J., during which he oversaw the Congressman's policy and public relations agenda. Caruso said one of the major accomplishments of his tenure was contributing to the congressman's successful fight to stop a South Jersey-based chemical plant from dumping a byproduct of treating VX nerve gas into the Delaware River.

Caruso capitalized on the media circus surrounding the controversial plan and worked with several stakeholders, including the **U.S. Army** — which had awarded a contract to the chemical company to clean and dispose of the toxic gas, stored at a facility in Indiana — to stop the dumping.

He was also an integral part of the 2001 establishment of the ACIN Camden Technology Center, which partners with the Department of Defense to encourage the growth of private-sector companies developing new technologies with military applications.

One of his major concentrations was economic development, and during his stint with the congressman's office, staffers canvassed virtually every business within his congressional district to find out what problems they were facing and what political or legislative solutions might be available to them — perhaps foreshadowing Caruso's role with Archer.

He said he looked forward to using his government experience and relationships “in this next phase of my career, to help our clients advance their points of view and achieve their objectives.”

Christopher R. Gibson, president of Archer, said Caruso's public sector background “gives him in-depth knowledge of people, policy and protocol that will greatly benefit our clients.”

His hiring is part of the ongoing expansion of the capabilities of the firm's government affairs group, according to James H. Carll, the firm's chairman.

Carll said in a statement that Caruso had “a long history in the state of New Jersey and Washington, D.C. Through his experience, he has developed contacts around the country and unique insight into the governmental process.”

###

Related People



William J. Caruso

Partner

✉ wcaruso@archerlaw.com

☎ 856.673.3915

