

## Lock in Those D's

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Add Locke Liddell Strategies to the list of once all-GOP shops that have rejiggered their business plans since the elections brought Democrats to power on Capitol Hill.



The firm just inked a deal with Mark Siegel, a former executive director of the Democratic National Committee and White House aide to President Jimmy Carter, to come aboard as partner. Siegel is the second Democrat to join the shop this year: Shane Doucet, a former aide to then-Rep. Chris John (D-La.), started in January.

"It has always been our intention to expand on the Democratic side," said firm partner Roy Coffee, a former aide to then-Texas Gov. George W. Bush. "With the results of last November, it was imperative for our clients to do that."

In its short existence in Washington, D.C., the shop, an outpost of Texas-based law firm Locke Liddell & Sapp, has benefited from good timing, sometimes accidentally.

It was launched in early October 2005, the same week that Harriet Miers, the firm's former co-manager in Dallas and then-White House counsel, was nominated for the Supreme Court.

At the time, Locke Liddell officials told Roll Call that they had been planning the rollout for months, and only found out about the Miers' nomination when the official announcement was made. It was their first day at the new shop.

Miers' bid, of course, met widespread opposition, and after withdrawing her name, she served another year in the Bush administration. She stepped down in January and this month returned to work at the firm, splitting her time between the Texas and Washington, D.C., offices.

Siegel comes to the firm from New Century Financial Corp., the subprime mortgage lending giant that collapsed this year in the face of criminal investigations and a wider industry meltdown. He was their sole lobbyist here, and he closed up the operation last week.

Locke Liddell booked \$2.3 million in business last year, boasting clients such as Sempra Energy, Genworth Financial and FM Policy Focus, according to CQ PoliticalMoneyLine. It recently signed up R.J. Reynolds, Patient Services Inc. and West Asset Management.