

JONATHAN SCHWANTES

WASHINGTON, DC



Government relations professional and attorney with more than 20 years of experience. Fluent subject matter expert in telecommunications, competition policy and disruptive, market-changing business models. Agile navigator of Washington DC politics with a wide network of bipartisan relationships. Senior level manager and leader. Quick analyzer and communicator of challenging technology issues. Charismatic coalition builder and influencer with sound political judgment. Creative and strategic problem solver. Strong writer, researcher, and collaborator. Legislative and regulatory process expert.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Senior Policy Counsel and Manager of Special Projects (2016 – present) Consumer Reports (CR), Advocacy Division, Washington, DC

Advocates for pro-consumer and pro-competition policies before Congress and Executive Branch agencies in the telecommunications, technology, internet, and media marketplaces. Responsibilities include direct lobbying of legislators and their staff, drafting and filing regulatory comments (typically at the Federal Communications Commission), brainstorming and leading large cross-functional projects and strategies to maximize CR's impact, managing advocates to increase CR's visibility on Capitol Hill, and serving as CR's lead spokesperson on telecommunications policy issues.

- Created and launched CR's cross-functional Fight for Fair Internet campaign in 2021 in partnership with dozens of other partnership organizations, and multiple internal stakeholders at CR; project crowdsourced 25,000+ internet service bills for CR to analyze and determine the cost of internet service, and the factors affecting price; I authored a [comprehensive white paper](#), and made several media appearances in the [Washington Post](#), [The Verge](#), and elsewhere as part of this project.
- Collaborated and designed with CR's survey team a [nationally-representative survey of consumer attitudes of Big Tech and related competition issues](#); the survey was cited in the House Judiciary Committee's 2020 report, *Investigation of Competition in Digital Markets*.
- Authored CR's [groundbreaking white paper](#) on the cost of hidden fees in the cable television market, leading to [testifying before the Senate Commerce Committee](#) on its findings, and passage of the Television Viewer Protection Act in 2019 which included better fee disclosure requirements.
- Recruited and successfully managed a grant-funded advocacy position to spearhead and lead CR's platform accountability work.
- Led CR's campaign to preserve net neutrality in the face of repeal by the FCC, which included filing regulatory comments, direct lobbying of key Capitol Hill staff and state legislators, representation of CR at coalition meetings, and the coordination of a mobilization effort that drove tens of thousands of calls and emails to policymakers; these efforts led to the successful passage of a net neutrality law in California in 2018.
- Appeared on CNBC's *Closing Bell*, Fox Business News, and other media outlets; interviewed by and had statements included in the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, NPR, CBS News, *USA Today*, *Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Consumer Reports*, *Communications Daily*, and other prominent publications.

Founding Principal (2012 – 2016)
Iverson Government Relations LLC, Washington, DC

Created a lobbying firm to represent clients before Congress and Executive Branch agencies.

- Lobbied for Time Warner Cable (the nation's second largest cable operator) on issues including telecommunications, intellectual property, corporate tax reform, antitrust law.
- Increased the visibility of the Application Developers Alliance (a trade association with more than 50,000 members) on Capitol Hill, leading to opportunities to testify at hearings and staff briefings.
- Developed and executed strategies—often with other lobbyists and coalitions—to build and maintain valuable relationships for clients with complex matters before Congress.

Senior Vice President (2007 – 2012)
Clark & Weinstock, Washington, DC

Managed relationships with and represented clients before Congress and Executive Branch agencies.

- Advocated on behalf of Fortune 500, international, and nonprofit clients, influencing staff on Capitol Hill and executive agencies.
- Analyzed, researched, and summarized legislative and political issues, gathered political intelligence, and provided in-depth policy analysis of Congressional activity.
- Created and managed a new staff researcher position, improving client service.
- Coached a high-profile client to successfully testify before a Senate hearing. Strong performance forged new relationships with key staff, preventing negative legislative outcomes.

General Counsel (2004 – 2007), Committee Counsel (1998 – 2003)
U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee, Antitrust Subcommittee (Sen. Herb Kohl, D-WI), Washington, DC

Provided legal, political, and legislative counsel to Senator Kohl on Judiciary Committee matters.

- Staffed committee hearings, drafted dozens of speeches and briefing memos, and performed policy research as part of a team of attorneys in a fast-paced environment.
- Briefed the Senator in person on complex legal and political issues in a clear, effective fashion.
- Served as the lead on telecommunications, intellectual property, tort reform, privacy, antitrust, juvenile justice, and constitutional law, often learning new issues from scratch.
- Drafted laws and amendments and effectively guided them through the legislative process.
- Hired, managed, and mentored staff, reviewing, editing, and improving their work product.

EDUCATION

Juris Doctor (1997)
University of Wisconsin Law School, Madison, WI

Graduated with honors; served as a Wisconsin Supreme Court Extern in Madison, WI, and University of Edinburgh Law Faculty Fellow in Edinburgh, Scotland.

Bachelor of Arts, Political Science (1994)
University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN

Graduated with Phi Beta Kappa honors (3.98 GPA); worked as a Congressional Intern for Rep. David Obey (D-WI) in Washington, DC, and as an Overseas Research Assistant in the British Parliament (House of Commons) in London, England.