



Former Congressional staffer joins Porterfield & Lowenthal, LLC

*New hire has deep expertise in finance and consumer credit-related legislation*

**Washington, DC (May 5, 2009)** – Porterfield & Lowenthal, LLC, the financial services-focused lobbying and consulting firm, today announced that Kirsten T. Johnson-Obey has joined the firm as an Executive Vice President. For 20 years, Johnson-Obey worked with legislators, in a number of different roles, formulating the policies and regulations affecting the financial services sector and consumer credit.

“Now more than ever, financial services firms need to understand the nuances of Washington, and our clients will benefit from Kirsten’s breadth of experience on Capitol Hill,” said Lendell Porterfield, CEO of Porterfield & Lowenthal. “Kirsten has spent most of her career focused on the financial sector, and she makes a great addition to our team as we work to keep clients apprised of the critical regulatory and legislative issues that can materially impact their business.”

Johnson-Obey served as professional staff at the House Financial Services Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit for a significant portion of her career. The Subcommittee has far-reaching jurisdiction over the financial industry, and its mandate includes oversight of financial regulators, such as the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Federal Reserve, all matters pertaining to consumer credit including the Consumer Credit Protection Act, and the safety and soundness of the banking system. During her tenure, Johnson-Obey worked closely with then-ranking Member, Representative Bruce F. Vento, as well as other Members, many of whom are continuing their service with the Subcommittee.

While at the Subcommittee, Johnson-Obey had a vital role in formulating and developing financial services modernization and reform policy positions – which ultimately led to the enactment of the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act of 1999. Among other initiatives, she was active in attempts to reform RESPA/TILA Mortgage Disclosures, financial privacy, electronic disclosures, CDFI reauthorization, and GSE/housing issues.

Andrew Lowenthal, President of Porterfield & Lowenthal, said, “Our clients look to us for counsel informed by an in-depth knowledge of financial services, coupled with a superior understanding of how Washington works, and we are committed to continually growing our business and bolstering our expertise with strategic hires.”

Before joining Porterfield & Lowenthal, Johnson-Obey represented Freddie Mac to Congress on issues ranging from Government Sponsored Enterprise (GSE) regulatory restructuring, corporate governance, insurance issues, privacy/data breach, anti-predatory lending and affordable housing legislation.

Johnson-Obey 45, graduated with B.A. degrees in International Relations and Political Science from Hamline University in St. Paul, Minnesota.

#### **About Porterfield & Lowenthal**

Porterfield & Lowenthal’s core services include government relations and risk management, including legislative and regulatory representation and strategic planning. Porterfield & Lowenthal also provide Washington policy analysis and research in special situations. Key practice areas include appropriations, capital markets, corporate governance, data breach, energy trading, financial institutions, insurance, mortgage finance, housing, and telecommunications. For more information, visit [www.porterfieldlowenthal.com](http://www.porterfieldlowenthal.com)