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Meltz launches crisis management firm — Frasier joins the Ingram Group — VOX Global hires Maine — The politics of football

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By BYRON TAU | 01/31/14 2:03 PM EDT

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With Andrea Drusch and Anna Palmer

SCOOPLET ... MELTZ LAUNCHES CRISIS MANAGEMENT FIRM: Gary Meltz, former senior vice president at Dezenhall Resources, is launching a boutique crisis management and public affairs firm called MELTZ Communication.

FRAISER JOINS THE INGRAM GROUP: Beecher Frasier will be joining the the Ingram Group and the First Group as a principal. Frasier is a former Democratic chief of staff and ex-campaign manager of former Rep. Harold Ford Jr.'s 2006 Senate race.

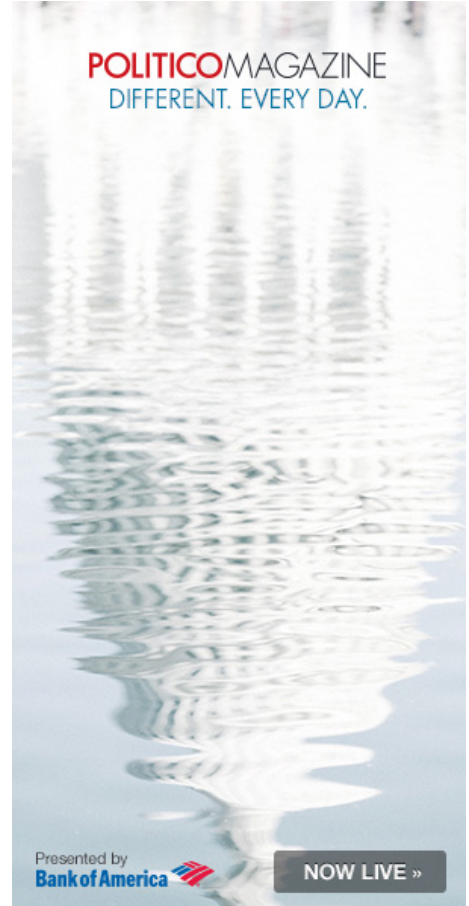
Frasier comes to the firm from Paramount Strategies, where he was working as a contract lobbyist. He'll continue to live in Tennessee and be based in The Ingram Group's Nashville office and commute on a regular basis to The First Group office.

Ingram and Frasier — now partners — have squared off politically when Bob Corker and Ford ran against each other for an open U.S. Senate seat. Ingram left his post as Lamar Alexander's chief of staff to manage the flagging Corker campaign in the last stretch.

GOOD FRIDAY AFTERNOON where it's been 86 years since Leon Trotsky was exiled by the Soviet Union. Send your lobbying news, gossip, tips and scoops to btau@politico.com.

VOX GLOBAL HIRES MAINE: The bipartisan public affairs and strategic communications firm VOX Global has hired Holly Maine as senior vice president in the agency's Washington, D.C. office.

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practice," said **David Payne**, senior vice president at VOX Global and head of the Digital Public Affairs practice group. "Her experience in the public affairs campaign world makes VOX more effective for our clients and distinguishes our service offerings." Prior to joining VOX, Maine was a senior account executive and regional director with **Centro**.

**THE POLITICS OF FOOTBALL:** Professional football season wraps up this Sunday with the Super Bowl, but for the league and players' union, many off-the-field battles will rage on. PI's rounded up some numbers on the industry's lobbying in the past year, which bridges issues from drug testing to player safety to broadcast and intellectual property issues. The **National Football League** spent just over \$1 million in 2013, on par with what it spent in 2012, but down some previous years when it first registered in 2009. It retains a string of heavy hitters on K Street, including: **Covington & Burling, Elmendorf Ryan, Fierce, Isakowitz & Blalock, Gephardt Group Government Affairs, Patton Boggs and The Glover Park Group**. **Patton Boggs** had represented the **NFL Players' Union** for a number of years, but the contract was terminated Dec. 31. The players' union added the **Fierce, Isakowitz & Blalock** back in October to work on antitrust, telecommunications and labor issues. Spending with Patton Boggs had tapered off from \$100,000-plus per quarter in 2010 to just \$30,000 per quarter, which is also what it paid Fierce, Isakowitz & Blalock in Q4.

\*\* The Property Casualty Insurers Association of America (PCI) is encouraging consumers to take action to protect their families, property, and better understand their insurance policies. PCI's interactive resource guide "Quick Steps for Disaster Preparedness and Recovery" helps policyholders take steps to be financially and physically prepared for natural disasters. Access PCI's guide here: <http://bit.ly/LZmVcs> \*\*

**CFA OPENS EUROPEAN OFFICE:** The **Commercial Finance Association** announced Thursday that it is opening a new European chapter to support asset based lenders doing business on the continent. "Cross-border asset-based lending is growing and the new European chapter will help CFA members cultivate the industry contacts necessary to make these deals happen, particularly in the syndicated ABL space," said **Bob Trojan**, Chief Executive Officer of the CFA. "Our members indicated a need for an organization to facilitate European ABL deals and strongly supported the creation of the CFA European Chapter." The London-based chapter will have an all-European focus, according to a release.

**RAMOS TAKES OVER VA LIAISON OFFICE:** **Maribel Ramos** has been named the new director of the McAuliffe administration's **Virginia Liaison Office** in Washington, D.C. She will function as the head of Congressional and Federal Affairs for the Governor and the Cabinet. Ramos served previously as Legislative Assistant to Sen. **Tim Kaine**, where she advised the senator on policy areas including education, economic development, housing, immigration and appropriations. Prior to that she served as a legislative assistant to Sen. **Jim Webb**, policy assistant to then-Gov. **Tim Kaine** and Latino liaison and special assistant to then-Gov. **Mark Warner**.

**TRADE ASSOCIATION QUOTE OF THE DAY:** "Oh my God, no," **Linda Downs**, the executive director and CEO of the **College Art Association**, said when told of President **Barack Obama's** remarks Thursday that there's more money in manufacturing jobs than with an art history degree. "That's just awful." <http://politico.com/1kkso9f>

**A READER** called to note that we linked **Patton Boggs** post-State of the Union 2014 forecast without noting that they lobbied on several of those issues that they predicted would move in Congress — including the Marketplace Fairness Act.

#### ELSEWHERE IN THE INFLUENCE WORD:

**SHOULD LOBBYISTS FOOT THE BILL AT LAWMAKERS' RETREATS?** "House Republicans are taking a three-day retreat this week, paid in part by a lobbyist-run institute. Members of the group get access to the lawmakers at the closed-door event on Maryland's Eastern Shore ... As for the House Democrats, they're booked into the same Hyatt Regency two weeks from now. But for financing the event, they take the opposite approach." Via **NPR's Peter Overby**: <http://n.pr/1ftCPGn>

#### HAWAII SAME-SEX MARRIAGE DECISION CALLS ATTENTION TO LOBBYING

**DISCLOSURE:** "With the arrival of today's deadline for lobbyists to report how much money supporters and opponents spent to influence Hawaii's same-sex marriage decision, critics say the state disclosure system is among the weakest in the nation and prevents a timely and complete tally." Honolulu Star Advertiser: <http://bit.ly/1Ufd0U>

**ILLINOIS LOBBYING 'GOLD STANDARD' DIES:** "Full of spit and vinegar at 90, Richard Lockhart has for 55 years been the gold standard in lobbying Illinois government — that is, in getting the right information in the right format to the right people at the right time." <http://bit.ly/1gxOcjQ>

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## NEW LOBBYING REGISTRATIONS: (Firm: Client)

Hannegan Landau Poersch Advocacy: Brinker International, Inc.

Kym H. Kilbourne: ViroPharma Incorporated

## NEW LOBBYING TERMINATIONS (Firm: Client (Type of Termination))

American Continental Group: The National Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association (Q4 termination)

Bevan, Mosca, Giuditta & Zarillo: Lincoln Educational Services Corporation (Q4 termination (no activity))

\*\* When is the last time you reviewed your homeowners or commercial insurance policy? In an effort to better prepare consumers for the next natural disaster, the Property Casualty Insurers Association of America's (PCI) is helping policyholders better understand their insurance policies and take steps to be financially as well as physically prepared for natural disasters. One key to financial preparedness is understanding your insurance policy and ensuring you have the coverage in place that will protect you and your property. PCI's "Quick Steps for Disaster Preparedness and Recovery" and videos provide tools and action steps to create an home inventory, a checklist for before, during, and after a disaster, access mobile apps that cover everything from helping consumers address their insurance needs to weather updates, disaster preparations and locating shelters to services to help you contact loved ones. Access PCI's tools here:

<http://bit.ly/LZmVcs> \*\*

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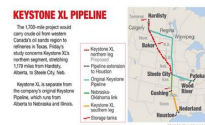
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