

Jesuit Alumni/ae in Congress



The Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities (AJCU) reports that among the 535 members of the 111th U.S. Congress, 51 of them, or more than 9 percent, are alumni/ae of Jesuit institutions.

There are 11 Jesuit alumni/ae in the Senate and 40 in the House of Representatives. Among the top leadership, both the majority and minority leaders in the House of Representatives, Congressmen Steny Hoyer (D-MD) and John Boehner (R-OH), respectively, the Senate Assistant Majority Leader, Senator Richard Durbin (D-IL), and the Chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee and Special Assistant to the Speaker, Congressman Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), are all Jesuit alumni.

Of these 51 alumni/ae, 33 received graduate or professional degrees from Jesuit universities. There are 15 Jesuit institutions represented by alumni/ae in the U.S. Congress. Georgetown University has the most alumni/ae with a total of 18, followed by Boston College with seven, and College of the Holy Cross and Fordham University with four each.

“With the many challenges facing our nation, we are happy that our Jesuit college and university alumni/ae are leading the congressional response to them,” said AJCU President Fr. Charles Currie, SJ. “Our graduates, who have dedicated their lives to the highest levels of public service, have been educated at institutions that place great value on academic excellence, competent leadership and compassionate service. We are proud of our Jesuit alumni/ae who continue to represent us with distinction and inspire us with their commitment to lead and serve.”

Many graduates of Jesuit institutions also serve in local and state governments. The following is a list of the Jesuit college and university alumni/ae in Congress in New England:

UNITED STATES SENATE

Senator John F. Kerry (D-MA), Elected 1984, J.D. Boston College (1976)

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Representative Michael Capuano, (D-MA), Elected 1998, J.D. Boston College (1977)

Representative William D. Delahunt, (D-MA), Elected 1996, J.D. Boston College (1967)

Representative Paul W. Hodes, (D-NH), Elected 2006, J.D. Boston College (1978)

Representative Stephen Lynch, (D-MA), Elected 2000, J.D. Boston College (1991)

Representative Edward J. Markey, (D-MA), Elected 1976, B.A. Boston College (1968), J.D. Boston College (1972)

Representative Peter Welch, (D-VT), Elected 2006, A.B. College of the Holy Cross (1969)

The article was adapted from text from the AJCU and we thank Melissa Collins Di Leonardo, director of communications, for her assistance.

The full list of the Jesuit alumni/ae in Congress is available on the AJCU website: www.ajcunet.edu

More Alumni in the Political Arena

Jon Favreau, 2003 alum of College of the Holy Cross, has been extensively profiled recently, in light of his role as President Barack Obama’s head speechwriter.

President Bill Clinton’s press secretary Dee Dee Myers, at the time the first woman and youngest person to become

White House press secretary, is currently a political commentator on the cable news network MSNBC and has been a commentator on PBS’s *To the Contrary*. Myers is a graduate of Santa Clara University.