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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**HILL+KNOWLTON STRATEGIES ADDS RYAN DUFFY  
TO TALLAHASSEE PUBLIC AFFAIRS TEAM**

**TALLAHASSEE, Fla., September 29, 2014**—Ryan Duffy, a seasoned communicator with extensive experience working for senior elected officials in Tallahassee and Washington, is joining Hill+Knowlton Strategies' Tallahassee office, company officials announced Monday.

Duffy, who will serve as a vice president, deepens the firm's presence in the state capital and adds another senior counselor to its Florida public affairs practice. He will also work with the company's national and global public affairs, crisis and corporate communications teams to support clients across the United States and the globe.

"H+K Strategies has a storied history as a global public affairs leader and I'm thrilled to be involved as the company continues to bolster its strong presence in Florida," Duffy said. "I'm looking forward to joining an already stellar team and helping clients to navigate public policy issues and communications challenges statewide."

Duffy adds to the firm's deep bench of veteran public affairs counselors in Florida, including H+K Strategies' Florida general manager and executive vice president Harry Costello, Ron Bartlett, a senior vice president who heads the firm's public affairs practice in Florida, Alia Faraj-Johnson, a senior vice president who heads the firm's Tallahassee office, and Bob Lotane, a vice president who also has considerable experience in the state capital.

"Ryan has established himself as a battle-tested communicator who knows the ins and outs of the state capital and Florida's public affairs landscape," Costello said. "From his strong background in speechwriting for a former governor and two U.S. senators to his role as spokesman for a house speaker, Ryan has found success in every endeavor. He will offer our clients invaluable insight and expertise."

Duffy most recently served as communications director and spokesman for Florida House Speaker Will Weatherford. In this role, Duffy served as spokesman while the Florida House took on significant legislative challenges, including education reform, sweeping ethics changes, enhancements to Florida's campaign finance laws, and pension reform.

Prior to working in the Florida House of Representatives, Duffy served as press secretary for the Florida House Leadership Team under then-House Speaker Dean Cannon. In 2010, he provided strategic counsel for public affairs clients at a Tallahassee public relations firm. He previously served as spokesman for the McCollum for Governor campaign in 2010. From 2007 to 2010, Duffy served as speechwriter for U.S. Senators Mel Martinez and George LeMieux. Before working in Washington, Duffy started his career as a speechwriter to former Florida Governor Jeb Bush.

He holds a master's degree in political management from George Washington University and a bachelor's in political science from Florida State University. In 2013, Duffy was named a "30 Under 30 Rising Star in Florida Politics" by SaintPetersBlog. He was also recognized as one of "30 Under 30" distinguished alumni by the FSU Alumni Association.

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