

Meet John Kelly

Introduction by Joe Phillips

If you attended our November 9th meeting, you will recognize our newest member, John Kelly, who serves as SVP for Global Social Impact and Public Policy at Starbucks. John joined us that day to describe Starbucks' military veterans hiring program, which falls under his domain. In his role at Starbucks, he oversees Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives, community involvement, and government affairs, and this includes recent Starbucks initiatives on refugees, the homeless, and ethically sourcing coffee. John has been nominated for membership by Gary Smith and Jimmy Collins.



John grew up in the Seattle area and earned his undergraduate degree in political science from Stanford. That convinced him that when it came to politics, the action was in DC, so he embarked for the nation's capitol immediately after graduation. After internships with the Supreme Court, House of Representatives and the White House, he landed a legislative position with Senator Slade Gordon and then Congressman Rick White. While in DC he went to school at night to earn his law degree from American University.

In 1996 John returned to Seattle to be Director of Legislative Affairs for McCaw Cellular, running state and local government relations for the company, before joining Microsoft in 1998 to build out its government affairs program at the time of its anti-trust battles. After that, he was sent off to Europe to help lead Microsoft's response to the EU anti-trust dispute. He then returned to Redmond to oversee regulatory approvals for acquisitions as VP of the Industry Affairs Group. In 2013 he left Microsoft to join Starbucks where he is now putting his considerable skills and experience to work.

John and his wife, Heidi, have two daughters ages 16 and 13, and a 10 year old son, all of whom keep them running in many different directions. Outside of family and work, John's passions are competitive rowing with the Sammamish Rowing Association and cross country skiing in the Methow Valley!

Please join me in welcoming our newest member, John Kelly.