

Paul M. Kanitra

Class of 1997

Paul M. Kanitra, a prominent, nationally recognized leader and innovator in his field. The Founder and President of Lobbyit.com a firm that prides itself on giving smaller organizations a voice in Washington D.C.

Paul is a 1997 graduate of Point Pleasant Beach High School. While attending the “Beach” Paul was active in multiple sports and clubs. He was a four-year member of the varsity tennis team serving as captain for the division winning 1997 Garnet Gull Varsity Tennis Squad. He also played on the junior varsity basketball team. Paul was active in Key Club, Peer Counseling and was a member of the Choir. Paul a solid student was also a four-year member of the Beach Science League Team. After graduating Point Beach in 1997 Paul would go on to Texas Christian University in Fort Worth. Paul entered TCU in 1997 and quickly discovered his passion for government. Paul interned for Congressman Smith who represents New Jersey’s 4th district in Washington D.C. during the summer of 1999. Congressman Smith brought Paul back to work on human rights issues for the Helsinki Commission as a paid intern during the summer of 2000. Paul was also the University Relations Chairman, a student government cabinet position, while in attendance at TCU. In 2001 Paul earned his Bachelor’s Degree in Political Science with a minor in Radio, Television and Film. After leaving TCU in 2001 Paul went to work as a Field Director for New Jersey’s 7th Congressional District Representative Mike Ferguson. He served as the liaison to all local elected officials and community leaders in New Jersey. In 2002, at just 22 years old, he ran for City Councilman in the Beach and was narrowly defeated. Paul eventually gave up his post in Jersey and moved back to Texas to become the Government Relations Director for the Associated Locksmiths of America. While in this position Paul served as the organizations local, state, and federal lobbyist helping to pass licensing laws regulating the fields professional standards. Paul moved on from there taking his experience to Lake Tahoe, Nevada. In Nevada, Paul worked on a Native American Reservation with the Reno Sparks Indian Colony (RSIC) helping the RSIC to form relationships with their local, state and elected officials. Ultimately Paul helped facilitate the passing of a land exchange bill that allowed the RSIC to lease land to a major retailer helping to stabilize the tribes’ economy. In 2006, Paul left the RSIC for Washington, DC to join CARFAX, the vehicle history company. Paul was in charge of government relations for CARFAX lobbying and managing the work of other lobbyist while helping to encourage access to vehicle specific data. Paul’s efforts focused on legislation such as the “Used Car Act”, “Right to Repair”, and other bills aimed at providing consumers with more vehicle information. In pursuit of his dream, to own his own firm, Paul convinced CARFAX to become a client and started Lobbyit.com in 2009. His business model is simple; bring affordable, accountable, transparent lobbying to those who previously had been priced out of having a voice.

Paul, in a short five-year period, has grown his business from a “one man shop” to a thriving 1.2 million dollar operation employing eight people who service 40 clients in a broad range of industries. He personally has lobbied and forged relationships with many

influential politicians including George W. Bush the 43rd President of the United States, Speaker of the House John Boehner, Senator John McCain and New Jersey Governor Christ Christie. He and Lobbyit have been recognized as one of the top 50 most influential companies in the Washington D.C. area. He has been featured on the front page of The Washington Post and in over 20 other major news sources. He has partnered with Voice of America recording a three-part documentary titled, “Democracy in America: Freedom of Petition” used to show Chinese citizens how a true Democracy provides access to all.

Paul who has many hobbies and who has traveled to 30 different countries still finds time to give back. He serves as a Board Member for the Association of Government Relations Professionals. He also serves on the Texas Christian University National Alumni Board. He plays in the annual “Hoops for Hope Charity Classic” raising funds for Washington D.C. public schools. He is active in both the Surfrider Foundation and Clean Ocean Action Organization. He regularly provides pro bono work helping organizations across the country. Paul and his wife Sarah are newlyweds married in the small town of Varenna on the shores of Lake Como, Italy on July 4, 2014. They currently reside in Point Pleasant Beach.

The Point Pleasant Beach Public Education Foundation wishes to congratulate Paul M. Kanitra, Point Pleasant Beach High School Class of 1997 on his successes in business and thanks him for dedicating his work to giving everyone a voice in our capitol city.