



Charles John O'Byrne

Charles John O'Byrne is Executive Vice President for Policy at Related Companies where he serves in a leadership role on a wide range of assignments involving government affairs on the federal, state and local levels; labor issues, litigation matters, and questions of strategy on multiple projects within the Related portfolio. He also serves as General Counsel for Fanvision Entertainment, a holding of Related's Chairman and Founder, Stephen M. Ross.

In 2016, he was named one of the 50 most powerful and influential New Yorkers in politics and business over the age of 50 by "City and State".

Charles is a native New Yorker and currently resides in Manhattan. Trained as an attorney, his career prior to joining Related involved varied experiences in government, religion, academia and business. A former Jesuit, he worked at Columbia and Harvard universities as a chaplain and teaching fellow. He also served as Associate General Counsel for the Archdiocese of New York.

Charles has decades of experience in politics and government as a speech writer, communications director and chief of staff. His work included stints on several presidential campaigns including that of Governor Howard Dean.

He spent more than five years in state service acting as Chief of Staff to the Senate Minority Leader, Chief of Staff to the Lieutenant Governor and Secretary to former Governor David A. Paterson. The constitutional office of Secretary to the Governor is the highest appointed office in the state's executive branch.

Charles has served as a trustee and personal adviser to members of the Kennedy Family for more than 25 years.

Long active in charitable and philanthropic works, he is a past president of the Columbia College Alumni Association, a co-founder of the Thomas Merton Lecture at Columbia, a former trustee of the Kennedy Smith Foundation and former Vice Chair of VSA Arts, an affiliate of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts providing artistic opportunities for people with disabilities. He is former Co-Chair and current member of the executive committee of the board of the Hetrick Martin Institute in New York, a member of the Board of Directors of NYC Outward Bound, a member of the Steering Committee for an Association for a Better New York and a Trustee of the Citizens Budget Commission. He also serves on the executive board of the Greater Area Board of Directors for the Boy Scouts of America.

Charles holds his BA summa cum laude from Columbia College, where he majored in history and studied Chinese philosophy. He received his Juris Doctor degree from the Columbia University School of Law where he was named to the International Fellows Program. He holds a Masters in Divinity with Distinction and an S.T.L., in Theology from the Weston Jesuit School.