

**Roy Neel**  
*biographical information*

For nearly three decades Roy Neel has been a prominent figure in national political and policy affairs. Most recently he served as campaign manager for Gov. Howard Dean's presidential bid. He is currently Chairman of the Washington, D.C.-based Jackson Group, a consulting company specializing in strategic planning for public policy initiatives, and serves as a director of Blue State Digital, a new Internet communications firm. During the current presidential campaign, Neel is directing The Nader Project, an effort to minimize the impact of the Nader vote in the 2004 election.

Roy Neel is also an Adjunct Professor of Political Science at Vanderbilt University, where he teaches courses in *Presidential Transitions* and *Presidential Leadership*.

During 2000, Neel was Director of Vice President Gore's presidential transition planning. During the post-election challenge in Florida, he managed the unprecedented transition efforts for Gore and Lieberman.

From 1977 to 1994 Roy Neel served in key roles in Al Gore's Washington operations, becoming Chief of Staff for Senator and Vice President Gore. Prior to leaving the White House, he served as President Clinton's Deputy Chief of Staff, responsible for coordinating all policy and communications activities for the President. Neel managed the Vice President's campaign in 1992 as was a central figure in the Clinton-Gore transition that followed that successful election. He has been a frequent guest on television newscasts providing timely analysis on current political and governmental issues. Neel was a member of the Democratic Platform Drafting Committee in 1988.

For seven years Roy Neel served as President and Chief Executive Officer of the U. S. Telecom Association, a trade group representing the regional Bell companies and nearly 1,000 local telecom companies. As its principle spokesman in Washington, Mr. Neel led the industry's successful battle to pass landmark legislation to reduce telecommunications regulation, and has lectured throughout the world on emerging marketplace developments and the government's role in regulating technology. Neel has also served as a director of the National Passenger Rail Corporation (Amtrak).

Roy Neel is a 1972 graduate of Vanderbilt University and holds a graduate degree from Harvard University (MPA, 1983). Prior to joining then-Congressman Gore's Washington staff he was a sportswriter for the *Nashville Banner*, owned and operated a media consulting firm, an aerial photography business, and worked for the Mayor of Nashville, where he won several national awards for local environmental planning programs. Neel has published numerous articles on public policy issues and is also the author of a book about college basketball.

Roy Neel grew up in Smyrna, Tennessee, and served in the U. S. Navy from 1966-70, including a one-year tour in Vietnam as a photojournalist. Neel is married to Jenny Clad, a Washington attorney-mediator, and has three sons, Tucker, 23, Walter, 20, and Sam, 18, who is a Vanderbilt freshman, and three stepchildren, Ben, 24, Chris, 22 (B.A. 2004), and Laura, 18.