



MARC SHORT

CHIEF OF STAFF, VICE PRESIDENT PENCE

NationalJournal

Life in Brief

Hometown: Virginia Beach, VA

Current Residence: Arlington, VA

Education

- BA, Washington & Lee, 1992
- MBA, University of Virginia, 2004

Family:

- Married to Kristen Short, who has worked for Young America's Foundation, Freedom Alliance, and the Charles G. Koch Foundation
- Three school-aged children

Work History

- Chief of Staff to the Vice President of the United States, 2019-Present
- Senior Fellow at UVA Miller Center of Public Affairs, 2018-19
- Contributor for CNN, 2018-19
- Partner at Guidepost Strategies, 2018-19
- White House Director of Legislative Affairs, 2017-18
- President of Advance Strategies, LLC, 2016
- Communications Adviser to Mike Pence, Trump for President 2016
- Senior Advisor, Rubio For President, 2016
- Executive Director of Freedom Partners, 2008-16
- Chief of Staff for House Republican Conference (R-IN), 2009-11
- Chief of Staff for Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchinson (R-TX), 2006-09
- McGuire Woods Consulting, unknown dates
- Spokesperson, Dept. of Homeland Security, 2001-03
- President, Young America's Foundation, unknown
- Finance Director for Oliver North for Senate, 1994

Quick Summary

Lifelong conservative GOP operative who rose through party ranks to become a trusted Mike Pence confidante. Utilizes expansive network of Koch allies, White House staff, and congressional ties to push Administration priorities

- Polished and pragmatic tactician who plays a behind-the-scenes role advising Vice President Pence and other senior leaders
- Early conservative political views shaped by his father, Dick Short, a wealthy GOP donor well-connected to Virginia GOP circles
- Extensive experience with Freedom Partners and the Koch Brothers exposed him to large network of GOP donors and influencers
- Earned reputation as smart strategist on the Hill working closely with then-Rep. Mike Pence
- Provided GOP establishment credentials and congressional experience to Trump White House to advance Administration's early agenda, including on 2017 tax cuts and Neil Gorsuch's confirmation to the Supreme Court
- Devout evangelical Christian

Approach and Motivations

Practical, calculated tactician after years on Hill

- Years working on the Hill earned him close relationships with lawmakers and political savvy to enact legislation

Influenced by Christian faith and upbringing in conservative household

- Political beliefs rooted in early life growing up in conservative household with politically active father who believed in "more freedom and less government"
- Guided by deeply held Christian beliefs; credits Oliver North with helping him shape his faith and accept Christ

Policy Positions and Areas of Focus

Stints in the Senate and as head of Freedom Partners shaped his establishment-leaning views on free trade, tax policy, and immigration

Counteracting Liberal Bias – Consistent interest throughout career

- Started conservative magazine at Washington & Lee called The Spectator, designed to counter the liberal values he believed faculty promoted
- As leader of Young America's Foundation, stated goal was focusing on Reagan era and his legacy to combat liberal bias on college campuses

Immigration Reform – Views somewhat shifted between Senate and White House

- Worked with Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX) on bill establishing temporary guest worker program without path to citizenship, in attempt to forge moderate solution; partnered with Pence in the House
- As VP Pence's chief of staff, calls for federal funding for border security and detention facilities

Free Trade – History of advocating for free and reciprocal trade

- At Freedom Partners, waged campaign against Export-Import Bank (EIB), claiming it interfered with free market and hurt small businesses
- Between leading White House legislative office and becoming Pence's Chief of Staff, formed Trade Works for America, a 501(c)(4) that has pushed for passage of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA)
- Argues that countries taking advantage of US markets should allow for US to have the same opportunities in their markets

Low Taxes – Has worked inside and outside government to fight tax increases and push for more tax cuts

- At Freedom Partners, criticized legislation increasing gas tax, arguing it would hurt lower income Americans by acting as regressive tax and increasing gas prices

- Played key role in passage of the 2017 tax bill, operating as the White House's liaison to Congress and relying on strong congressional relationships to adjudicate key issues

Core Communities**Koch Organizations & Conservative Donor Network – Largely credited with building and operating the Koch political financial network**

- Emily Seidel, CEO of Americans for Prosperity, worked for him under Pence
- Wife Kristen Short has worked for several conservative groups including the Young America's Foundation, Freedom Alliance, and the Charles G. Koch Foundation
- Dallas millionaire Doug Deason has long ties to him as a Koch donor and through the Rubio campaign in 2016
- Richard Ribbetrop, former SVP at Freedom Partners, initially hired him at the Koch group
- Andy Koenig worked with him at Freedom Partners as senior policy advisor

Congressional & Establishment GOP – Strong Hill connections to GOP members and staff

- Worked at Guidepost Strategies alongside Phil Cox, former Executive Director of Republican Governors Association (RGA)
- Worked as close advisor to Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL) during the 2016 GOP primary
- Former House Freedom Caucus Chair Rep. Mark Meadows (R-NC) worked with him and complimented his legislative judgment
- Executive Director of Senate Conservatives Fund, Mary Vought, worked with him at the House GOP Conference
- Rachel Semmel, Communications Director at OMB, worked with him at House GOP Conference

Virginia/UVA Alum Conservatives – Born and raised in Virginia and exposed to state's conservative politics at young age

- Comes from family of wealthy conservative donors

Core Communities Cont.

- First foray into politics came during Oliver North's failed campaign for one of Virginia's US Senate seats; considers North a mentor
- Prominent UVA alumni including Rich Lowry, Kate Obenshain, Tom Saunders, and former Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli publicly defended Short's fellowship with the school's public policy and presidential-history research center after two professors resigned in protest of his appointment
- Virginia Beach GOP activist Gary Byler is a close family friend

Selected Publications

Wrote about policy issues while at Freedom Partners

Editorial – Frequently penned advocacy op-eds during stint with Freedom Partners

- "The bank we don't need," *Los Angeles Times*, July 2015
- "[Giving Billions to the Rich](#)," *New York Times*, November 2015
- "[Congress must keep its spending promise to Florida taxpayers](#)," *The Gainesville Sun*, September 2015
- "The bank we don't need," *Los Angeles Times*, July 2015

Financial Disclosures and Donations

History of donating to GOP candidates and PACs

Compensation Sources (Exceeding \$5,000) – Provided consulting services to several GOP candidates and conservative interest groups

- Club for Growth
- NRSC
- Marco Rubio for President
- Susan B. Anthony List
- Mike Pence for Indiana
- General Electric
- Mike Pompeo for Congress

Federal – Senate Candidates

- Has donated over \$15,000 to GOP Senate candidates since 1994 including Martha McSally, Marshal Blackburn, Marco Rubio, Ben Sasse, Shelley Moore Capito, George Allen, Sharon Angle, John McCain, and Oliver North

Federal – GOP PACs

- Has donated over \$20,000 to GOP-aligned PACs since 1994 including KOCHPAC, Senate Conservatives Fund, Defend America PAC, and Great America Committee

Media Appearances

Favors cable news to argue in favor of Trump Administration priorities, particular on trade policy as Chief of Staff to VP Pence

Cable News – Often supports President Trump's agenda on major networks

- [CNBC](#): Squawk on the Street: Spoke about importance of passing trade deal with China prior to 2020, July 2019
- [Bloomberg Markets](#): Spoke about the USMCA trade deal's benefits and concern about the House not putting it on the floor for a vote, June 2019
- [Fox News](#): Fox News Sunday: Touted President Trump's 2017 agenda and upcoming 2018 agenda priorities on infrastructure, December 2017

Speaking Engagements

Conservative/Academic – Speaks about conservative youth activism and political experience in the Trump White House

- Speaker at National Conservative Student Conference where he touched on campus activism and free speech, August 2018
- Spoke at Washington Term Speaker Series at Washington & Lee University about serving in the Trump Administration, January 2019

Profiles Others Have Written

Profiles have focused on his personal life and professional career as well as his credentials as an experienced Hill operative

Bill Bartel: "[Virginia Beach native Marc Short follows father's footsteps to a key post in Trump White House](#)," *The Virginian-Pilot*, April 2017

- Profile covered his family background and the relatively low profile he maintains in the White House

Kyle Cheney & Matthew Nussbaum: "[Donald Trump's man on the hill](#)," *Politico*, January 2017

- Discussed his track record and reputation working on Capitol Hill and how his presence will shape the Trump Administration agenda

Info From Formative Years

Early exposure to conservative politics growing up in politically well-connected household

- Son of Dick Short, a wealthy insurance executive and backer of conservative causes
- Influenced by father's politics, particularly his view that less government is essential for progress
- Oliver North, who he met after graduating, had a profound impact on his Christian faith and provided an avenue to politics
- Helped manage the Reagan ranch in his early career, and has an admiration for the late former president

Family Background

- Born and raised in Virginia Beach, VA
- Father, Richard (Dick) T. Short III, was a manager of Equitable Life and member of the Million Dollar Round Table and President of Timolat, Inc.
- Mother, Florence (Kim) Timolat Short, is President of the Short Family Foundation
- Brother, James "Jas" Short, is an SVP at Eagle Asset Management