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### **International Human Rights Advocate Shai Franklin to Join Gotham Government Relations as Partner**

Garden City, NY- - Gotham Government Relations Partners Brad Gerstman and David Schwartz welcome Shai Franklin a new Partner of the firm.

Shai Franklin is a veteran non-profit executive with extensive experience in government relations, grassroots and diplomatic advocacy, and board development and capacity-building. His humanitarian and policy work has taken him for long periods to Geneva, Jerusalem, Mumbai, and Moscow.

In his capacity as a top professional with the World Jewish Congress, Shai served several years as Treasurer of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CONGO), and was one of the organizers of the International Council of Jewish Parliamentarians. While at WJC, he spearheaded high-level initiatives through a wide range of international organizations, including the United Nations, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Organization of American States, the International Red Cross, and Interpol.

Shai has developed numerous initiatives in the United States, and shaped and shepherded legislation that became U.S. Public Law. As Director of Governmental Relations for NCSEJ (formerly, National Conference on Soviet Jewry), he was instrumental in negotiating the human rights protocols for newly independent republics to be graduated from the Soviet-era Jackson Vanik law guidelines for U.S. trade. He was also a key player in OSCE's adoption of the 2004 Berlin Declaration, a mandate for monitoring and combating anti-Semitism throughout Europe and North America. Working with other NGOs and the energy sector, Mr. Franklin advocated for freeing Azerbaijan from restrictions under Section 907 of the U.S. Freedom Support Act.

In New York State, as Executive Director of TEACH-NYS, Shai raised hundreds of thousands in contributions for political candidates, and he organized a grassroots and inter-religious coalition that secured tens of millions of dollars in increased government reimbursements to non-public schools.

Shai has testified in the U.S. Congress and New York State Legislature, and addressed numerous international fora of the OSCE, United Nations, and the Interparliamentary Conference on

Human Rights and Religious Freedom. He has conducted research in France on Islamic-Jewish relations, under the auspices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and has appeared as an expert on TV networks as diverse as i24, TRT World, Al Jazeera, Shalom TV, Israel Radio, and Argentina's C5N. In recognition of his effective social-media presence, he was ranked among the top ten on JTA's 2009 list of the "100 Most Influential Jewish Twitter Users."

Shai Franklin has degrees from Temple University (summa cum laude) and the Johns Hopkins University's Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, where was selected for the U.S. Government's elite Presidential Management Intern Program. In addition to fluent English and Hebrew, he also speaks Arabic and French.

"Shai Franklin has advocated for clients all over the globe for a variety of different issues. He has a long and impressive track record of accomplishments." Founding Partner Brad Gerstman said. "His extensive list of contacts at NGO's and international organizations will prove to be an incredible asset for Gotham. Shai has a brilliant mind for international politics, and a tireless work ethic that will fit in great at the firm."

"When I think of Shai Franklin, I think of a scholar, a mentor and an advocate that stops at nothing to accomplish his goals" said Founding partner David Schwartz. "Our associates will learn about lobbying at the highest levels of international government with Shai as a new partner."

Effective immediately, Shai Franklin will assist all of the clients of Gotham and will work with the entire team in enhancing the goals of the firm and its clients.

One of New York's most vibrant and fastest-growing government relations firms, Gotham Government Relations & Communications, provides lobbying, advocacy, public relations, social media, strategic planning and consulting services to its clients. Gotham offers its clients forward-thinking strategies that tap into political trends and opportunities. The work of its partners has resulted in shaping public policy on a number of key matters, including business advocacy and strategy; land use; special education and charitable causes. Gotham Government Relations has offices in Long Island, New York City, Albany and Washington, DC.

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