

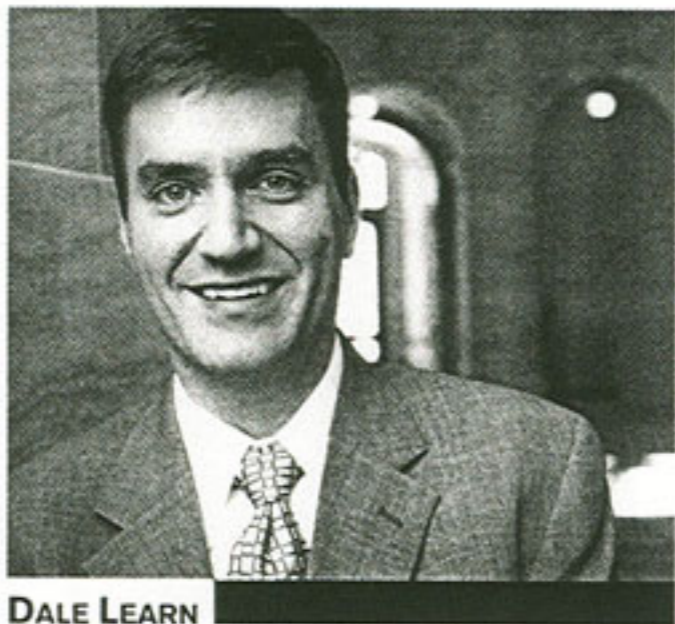
MARCH 26, 2005 NUMBER 13

National Journal

THE WEEKLY
ON POLITICS AND
GOVERNMENT

Lobby Shops

One of the first decisions that **Dale Learn** will have to make as vice president of federal government relations at Smith Alling Lane is where to put the permanent Washington office. Capitol Hill offers walking-distance access to staffers and lawmakers, but K Street is a corridor of power in town. And either locale comes with many options for that all-important consideration: lunch. "As a serious runner, I have to think what's good for me and those I'm dealing with day to day," said



RICHARD A. BLOOM

DALE LEARN

Lobbying firm gets him to leave Hill post

Learn, who's leaving his position as a senior legislative assistant to Sen. **Patty Murray**, D-Wash., to head the lobbying firm's Beltway branch.

Learn, 35, is making the move after nearly nine years on Capitol Hill, where he started as a legislative assistant to Rep. **Adam Smith**, D-Wash. In 1999, Learn signed on as a legislative assistant with Murray; in that post, he focused on issues ranging from technology to appropriations. A Washington state native and University of Maryland law school graduate, he mostly recently handled transportation issues for Murray. Over the years, Smith Alling Lane, which is based in Tacoma, Wash., had lobbied him on various issues. He began to consider joining the firm after he hit a self-proclaimed milestone in his Capitol Hill experience. "When you get to eight years on the Hill, I think you have to decide whether you want to be permanent here, or whether you want to go do something else," said Learn, who begins his new role later this month. "I'm excited to use my skills in the lobbying world." —M.K.