

International Coup

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*By Kate Ackley and Tory Newmyer,
Roll Call Staff*

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Cassidy & Associates is going global. The firm is launching a new global affairs and trade consultancy group and is bringing on Robin Raphel, who spent three years as U.S. ambassador to Tunisia, to help get the practice off the ground.

Most recently, Raphel was deputy inspector general in the Office of the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction, which oversees more than \$20 billion in U.S. reconstruction aid for Iraq.

A 30-year State Department veteran, she was assistant secretary of State for South Asian affairs from 1993 to 1997 before becoming ambassador to Tunisia.

Raphel's long career in government service also includes a stint with the CIA, where she was an economic analyst.

Cassidy's vice chairman and chief operating officer, Gregg Hartley, said that although the firm has long done work for foreign governments and corporate clients with international legislative concerns, this practice will focus less on lobbying and more on business consulting.

"We're making a fairly substantial change in a major part of our overall firm," Hartley said. "What we're going to do is start a separate section of Cassidy that will have multiple teams or multiple practices all focused on consulting on international work."

Raphel, Hartley added, will help clients understand the nuances of "foreign policy, the friction points in between the various players."

Added Raphel in a statement: "I'm looking forward to using my experience to help guide clients through the intimidating Washington maze of policy and decisions."