

Hub's Future Leaders

Tips from O'Neill

Four years ago, amid reports of a "Brain Drain" that was sapping the business community's most talented workers, the Greater Boston Chamber created the Boston's Future Leaders (BFL) program to identify the leaders of tomorrow and engage them in the business and civic life of our community. Every Monday, Chamber president & CEO Paul Guzzi has a conversation with one of the more than 200 alumni of the BFL program to introduce the region's next generation of business leaders to Metro readers.

What is the coolest part of your job?

The opportunity to be involved in shaping public policy at the local, state and federal level.

How would you describe the corporate culture at O'Neill & Associates?

Informal and collaborative yet highly professional. Senior and junior staff share ideas and resources freely, and this shows in the unique solutions we're able to provide to address our client's needs. From a social standpoint, it is a very collegial atmosphere with a work hard play hard kind of attitude.

If you could have any job in Boston, other than your own, what would it be and why?

On the idealistic side, mayor or Suffolk County district attorney because both positions offer the

opportunity to set policy and have a direct, positive impact on people's day-to-day lives — and on the lives of the neediest in our society. On the other hand, running an adventure travel company wouldn't be so bad either.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

I hope to continue in public affairs, working with business interests and helping them achieve their public policy objectives both locally and in Washington.

What is your favorite way to relax after a long day or week?

A jog around the Charles on a nice day, or just hanging out on my couch in front of the TV with an ice cold beer.

What's the best piece of career advice you have ever received?

Never burn any bridges and always, always call people back!

What is the best place for an after work drink?

21st Amendment (for work related networking), Houston's or the outdoor bar at the Salty Dog in the summertime

Who do you admire in the business world?

Robert Kraft and Sheldon Adelson. Kraft because of the commitment he showed in buying the Patriots, keeping them in Boston, and turning the team into the huge commercial success it is today. He also gives a great deal back to the community through his philanthropic work. And Adelson because he was a poor kid who started out selling newspapers on the street corner in Dorchester and ultimately built a business empire. He is also a great philanthropist.



Gary Murad

Title: Vice President
Company: O'Neill & Associates
Education: B.S. in management, UMass-Amherst; J.D., Suffolk University Law School; M.B.A., Boston College



Murad

Gary has been employed as a lobbyist at O'Neill and Associates for 5 years and brings both public and private sector experience to his position. He previously served as legislative counsel to the state legislature's Joint Committee on Public Safety, and with the public sector business unit at Cambridge-based business and technology consulting firm Sapient.

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Both are committed to maintaining a strong, vibrant Jewish community in Greater Boston and around the world.

How can young professionals expand their networks and increase their impact in Boston?

Get involved, whether it is with the Chamber, alumni associations, charities, volunteering. These are all ways to interact with your peers and develop a mutually beneficial network.

How can young professionals expand their networks and increase their impact in Boston?

I love to travel. Anywhere, anytime. The more adventurous the better.



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