

Hearsay

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Tom & Tom

Onetime private practitioner and longtime public official **Thomas H. Trimarco** is back in the private sector, as a senior vice president in charge of litigation support for the downtown Boston communications and lobbying firm, O'Neill and Associates.



TRIMARCO

Founded by former Lt. Gov. Thomas P. O'Neill III, the firm is looking to Trimarco, most recently state secretary of administration and finance, "to grow the litigation support part of our government relations practice through the many relationships he's developed over the years," says Cosmo Macero Jr., VP in O'Neill's communications group.

"O'Neill and Associates has had a good number of experiences working with law firms on behalf of the law firms' clients," says Trimarco, who joined O&A late last month. "What I would hope to do is to bring greater focus and my own personal experiences to bear on this."

Acknowledging that several large

firms in Boston already have government relations subsidiaries, such as ML Strategies, spawned by the firm of Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo, Trimarco says: "We're not looking to compete with those firms, but we're offering ourselves to small, middle and large firms that do not have the government relations capacities and strategies that a couple of the large firms have. It might be public relations strategy, organizational strategy, outreach to a government office.... We think there's a need for those services."

Trimarco, on the hot seat last year as a member of the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority when it was rocked by big Big Dig problems, says that "initially" he does not plan to register as a lobbyist "because that's the area where I'd be most constrained" by state ethics law governing potential conflicts of interest. "I have no intention of getting close to those lines," he says.

Similarly, he intends to be mindful of the role of his wife, **Barbara J. Rouse**, as chief justice of the Superior Court. "She's not sitting on cases in her current capacity," he says, "but I would never involve myself in any matter that is before the Superior Court."