

2011 BUSINESS-GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AWARD

John Castellani

Armed with a biology degree from Union College in Schenectady, New York, John J. Castellani began his career as an environmental scientist with General Electric in 1972. After a U.S. energy crisis in the late 1970's, GE detailed Castellani – already recognized for his strategic planning skills – to the National Association of Manufacturers and there began his long and distinguished career in business-government relations. In the 1980's Castellani went on to serve as TRW's vice president for government relations. Later, Castellani became executive vice president at Tenneco Inc. where, as part of the senior management team, he led the transformation of the ailing conglomerate into seven strong companies.



John Castellani is most well-known for his leadership at the Business Roundtable, an association of CEOs that the Financial Times has called “the most influential chief executive lobbying group in the U.S.” Castellani’s strong influence as a business lobbyist is credited for establishing the Business Roundtable as a significant force in important issues for business. As the leader of an organization filled with tremendous business clout, Castellani distinguished himself through objective and thoughtful engagement in the competition to shape public policy. In the words of former colleague Larry Burton, “John Castellani epitomizes what Bryce Harlow stood for – ethics, integrity, respect and results.”

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In June of 2010 John Castellani left the Business Roundtable to become president and CEO of PhRMA. “Castellani’s experience in coalition building and strong reputation of working across the political divide set him apart,” said David Brennan, president and CEO of AstraZeneca. “In the really tough moments in the healthcare debate,” said Senator Mark Warner, “John

was one of the voices that was trusted by the administration, Republicans and Democrats. He never lost his focus of getting his business point forward, but he also understood there are two sides to every issue.” It is a special honor for the Bryce Harlow Foundation to present Mr. John Castellani with the 2011 Business-Government Relations Award.

The Bryce Harlow Foundation

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