Tara Lichtenfels

Tara Lichtenfels Gans graduated Trinity College in 1988 with a degree in Political Science and enjoyed a long career in politics. Her career began on Capitol Hill as a legislative aide to the Hon. Barbara B. Kennelly (CT-1). Tara served Congresswoman Kennelly as a policy expert in Education, National Security, and International Trade matters. In that role Tara worked extensively on trade agreements including NAFTA, GATT/WTO, and Permanent Normal Trade Relations, and liaised with the White House and Federal agencies.

When Congresswoman Kennelly rose to be Chief Deputy Whip of the House of Representatives, Tara was promoted to her leadership staff. There she worked as an advisor and writer supporting Congresswoman Kennelly's leadership responsibilities, such as implementing daily legislative and communications strategies and voting discipline. Later she became Senior Policy Advisor to the Vice Chair of the House Democratic Caucus where she assessed legislative policy and communications strategies and conducted issue task forces for Members of Congress.

Tara left Capitol Hill to be Director of Federal Affairs for the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers Association where she developed and represented industry initiatives before Congress and Federal Agencies related to international market access and transparency, research and development tax credits, patient privacy and bioethics. After her time at PhRMA, Tara retired from government affairs to dedicate her time to raising her children and serving a variety of non-profit organizations.

Tara has been an active volunteer at Trinity. Her service to Trinity has taken her from serving as a Reunion Committee Member, Class Secretary and Agent, Chair of the Long Walks Societies Committee, to a member of the Board of Fellows, a member of the Women's Leadership Council, and Senior Parent Gift Committee member.

Tara lives in Potomac, Maryland with her husband, Jeff, and two dogs. They have two children, daughter, Mara (Trinity '20), and son Andrew.