

## **KORI BERNARDS**

### **Senior Vice President, Communications, Universal Pictures**

As Senior Vice President of Communications for Universal Pictures, Kori Bernards oversees all internal and external communications for the motion picture group at the film studio. Bernards' department provides communications counsel and representation for the executive leadership of Universal Pictures and all of its business divisions, including Universal Pictures International, Universal Partnerships & Licensing, Business Affairs, Strategic Planning, Home Entertainment, Production, Marketing, as well as Television and Digital Distribution. Bernards serves as Universal's top spokesperson and liaison to the media regarding strategic business initiatives, films in development, production and distribution relationships, corporate affairs and box office reporting.

Prior to coming to Universal in 2008, Bernards was Vice President of Corporate Communications at the trade association representing the six major motion picture studios, the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA). In that role, she served as a strategic advisor and media spokesperson on issues relating to film ratings, film advertising, film piracy and worldwide legal, public policy and political matters relevant to the six major motion picture studios.

Before moving to Los Angeles, Bernards spent more than a decade in Washington, D.C., as a top communications, policy and political strategist – including serving as Senior Advisor to former U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi while she was Minority Leader. During the 2004 elections Bernards was the Communications Director for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC), where she led national and local strategic communications efforts and advised top Congressional candidates, the House Minority Leadership as well as other key Members of Congress.

Bernards was Press Secretary to U.S. House Minority Leader Richard Gephardt from 2000 to 2003, a period that included the September 11<sup>th</sup> Attacks, the start of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the creation of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, anthrax attacks on the U.S. Capitol, and the kickoff of Gephardt's presidential campaign. For four years prior to that, Bernards was Communications Director for Democrats on the influential U.S. House Appropriations Committee, which controls all federal government spending. She also served as a Traveling Press Secretary for U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala.

Bernards started her career in strategic communications in 1992 as a press advisor for the Bill Clinton for President Campaign in Phoenix, Arizona.

A native of Southern California, Kori Bernards currently lives in Los Angeles with her husband and two children.