

## Executive Profile: Ron Ober, Policy Development Group

Phoenix Business Journal - by [Mike Sunnucks](#)

Ron Ober is one of those political and business insiders most people in Arizona haven't heard of, but he's been involved in a number of important issues that have shaped the state in the past few decades. His lobbying firm continues to play a key role in moving the state forward.

Ober is co-founder and principal of **Policy Development Group** in Phoenix. Some of his firm's clients include **LifeLock Inc.**, **Toyota Motor Co.**, Resolution Copper Mining, Motorola Inc., **Scottsdale Healthcare** and the American Lung Association.

Ober founded PDG with his wife, Gail Gordon, in 1991. Ober and PDG also worked on another contentious Arizona issue during the 1990s, assisting the Roman Catholic Church with its handling of sexual abuse cases in the Phoenix Diocese.

"Although it was a sobering experience, I am proud of the sexual abuse-prevention programs we developed for the Phoenix Catholic Diocese, including new training programs, establishing an office of a youth protection advocate and planning a communitywide summit on sexual abuse," Ober said.

Ober and PDG also helped forge agreements that resulted in development of Arizona Mills in Tempe and passage of Proposition 302 in 2000, which funded construction of University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale. PDG now is working to gain approval of a new copper mine in Superior for Resolution Copper.

Ober first hitched his political wagon to Dennis DeConcini in 1976 when he ran the Tucson Democrat's campaign for Pima County attorney. Ober then ran DeConcini's 1978 U.S. Senate campaign and was a close aide to the Arizona senator. The senator served from 1977 to 1995.

### Personal

**Family:** Wife, Gail Gordon; two daughters

**Residence:** Paradise Valley

**Education:** University of Arizona

**Pets:** None

### Professional

**Most rewarding thing about your job:** Solving complex issues that have lasting positive impacts on Arizona

**Most challenging:** Navigating between government and corporate cultures to identify mutually beneficial solutions

**Biggest misperception about lobbyists:** That a lobbyist can solve a problem based solely on relationships

**Do you tell people you are a lobbyist at cocktail parties?** Of course I do. It's a great icebreaker.

**How is the economy impacting your firm?** More than ever, companies are looking for opportunities in the public sector to sustain their businesses.

**In three words, describe ...**

**Your firm:** Best in Arizona

**Your work:** We achieve results

**Yourself:** Honest, respected, experienced

**Arizona:** Much too divided

**current state of politics:** Way too partisan

**current state of the economy:** Beginning to improve

**Your car:** Lexus GX 470

### Favorites

**Hobbies:** Watching sports and hanging out at the beach with my family

**Restaurants:** La Piccola Cucina, Andreoli, Vincent's Market Bistro and Postinos

**News sources:** Anything but news-talk radio. I already know what they are going to say.



Jim Poulin/The Business Journal

Ron Ober

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Radio station: Whichever station the Cardinals, Suns and Diamondbacks are on

Vacation spot:

**San Diego, or anywhere with a beach**

**U.S. president: John F. Kennedy**

**Arizonan: My wife**

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