



Planned Parenthood **Action** FUND

Politics, Sex & Cocktails

Sunday, October 8, 2006 at 5:00 pm Founder's Circle Reception

Paul Begala

ABC News recently compiled a list of the 20 people who are friends with both President George W. Bush and former President Bill Clinton. The list includes Colin Powell, British Prime Minister Tony Blair, and baseball great Willie Mays. Perhaps surprisingly, Paul Begala was one of the 20 people on this remarkable list.

As a commentator and political analyst for CNN, Paul has earned the respect of both sides of the political aisle for his knowledge of politics, his passion and his sense of humor.

As counselor to President Clinton, Paul helped define and defend the Administration's agenda, from the State of the Union Address to the economic, domestic and international issues the White House faces each day. He was also one of the Administration's principal public spokesmen. It's been reported that the character Josh Lyman on the hit TV series *The West Wing* is based on Paul.

Begala first gained national prominence with his partner James Carville in the political consulting firm of Carville & Begala. As such, he was a senior strategist for the Clinton-Gore Presidential Campaign in 1992. He has helped direct the political strategy of numerous other campaigns across the country and around the world, including advising politicians in Europe, Latin America, the Caribbean and Africa.

He helped his friend John F. Kennedy, Jr. launch the political magazine *George* and wrote the "Capitol Hillbilly" column, but left the magazine after John passed away. He has also written for *Esquire* magazine and *The Washington Monthly*, and is the author of *The New York Times* best-selling book *Is Our Children Learning? The Case Against George W. Bush*. His book *Buck Up, Suck Up, and Come Back When You Foul Up*, was written with James Carville and was also a *New York Times* best seller. He and Carville released a new book entitled *Take It Back: Our Party, Our Country, Our Future* in January 2006.

Begala is a research professor at Georgetown University's Public Policy Institute.

Begala received his B.A. in Government and his law degree from the University of Texas at Austin, where he was student body president. In addition to his current post at Georgetown, Paul has taught at the University of Texas, lectured at Oxford University in England, and participated in symposia at schools including Harvard, Princeton and Columbia.