

Professional Experience

2014 – present **Deputy Solicitor General**, California Department of Justice. Civil and criminal litigation on behalf of the State of California and its officers and agencies. Special emphasis on cases at the U.S. Supreme Court and Supreme Court of California. Recipient of four Attorney General’s Awards, for cases challenging federal border wall construction (2021), defending state COVID response (2021), defending immigrant protections in California Values Act (2020), and defending Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program (2019). Significant matters include:

- *U.S. Supreme Court*: Co-authored certiorari- and merits-stage briefs in *Trump v. Sierra Club*, No. 20-138 (challenging Trump Administration’s border-wall construction); co-authored brief in *S. Bay Pentecostal Church v. Newsom*, 140 S. Ct. 1613 (2020) (defending state COVID regulations); presented oral argument and wrote certiorari- and merits-stage briefs in *Nat’l Inst. of Family & Life Advocates v. Becerra*, 138 S. Ct. 2361 (2018) (defending California reproductive rights disclosure statute against First Amendment challenge); principal author of multi-state amicus briefs in *Knick v. Township of Scott*, 139 S. Ct. 2162 (2019), and *Murr v. Wisconsin*, 137 S. Ct. 1933 (2017) (Takings Clause); principal author of petition-stage briefs resulting in summary reversal in *Johnson v. Lee*, 578 U.S. 605 (2016); co-authored merits-stage briefs in *Davis v. Ayala*, 576 U.S. 257 (2015) (received Best Brief Award from National Association of Attorneys General).
- *California Supreme Court*: Wrote merits briefs and presented argument in *In re Humphrey*, 11 Cal. 5th 135 (2021) (unconstitutionality of unaffordable bail), and *People v. Lemcke*, 11 Cal. 5th 644 (2021) (improvements to eyewitness identification instructions); wrote merits brief in *People v. Kopp*, No. S257844 (unconstitutionality of unaffordable court fees); wrote amicus brief in *In re Webb*, 7 Cal. 5th 270 (2019) (conditions of release as alternative to high bail); co-author of merits briefs in *People v. Rinehart*, 1 Cal. 5th 652 (2016), cert. den. 138 S. Ct. 635 (2016) (defending state environmental law against federal preemption challenge); presented oral argument and was principal author of merits briefs in *People v. Morales*, 63 Cal. 4th 399 (2016).
- *Other Courts*: Defense of greenhouse gas regulations in multiple cases, including *West Virginia v. EPA*, 142 S. Ct. 2587 (2022), *Ohio v. EPA*, No. 22-1081 (D.C. Cir.), and *Texas v. EPA*, No. 22-1031 (D.C. Cir.); drafted briefs and presented oral arguments in *Givens v. Newsom*, 830 F. App’x 560 (9th Cir. 2020) (defending state COVID response), *San Francisco v. Barr* and *California v. Barr*, 965 F.3d 753 (9th Cir. 2020) (challenging federal immigration-related conditions on grants to California agencies), and *Higginson v. Becerra*, 786 F. App’x 705 (9th Cir. 2019) (defending California Voting Rights Act against constitutional challenge); presented en banc oral argument and drafted related brief in *Retail Digital Network LLC v. Prieto*, 861 F.3d 839 (9th Cir. 2017) (defending California commercial speech regulations against First Amendment challenge).

2011 – 2014 **Assistant United States Attorney**, U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Central District of California. Served in Violent & Organized Crime Section and General Crimes Section. Investigations, trials, and appeals involving racketeering, child exploitation, fraud, identity theft, gangs, drug conspiracies, computer hacking, and other federal crimes. Significant matters include:

- Investigation and indictment in *United States v. Sears*, No. 14-274 (C.D. Cal.) (31-count indictment for sexual exploitation of dozens of underage victims), and *United States v. Laredo*, No. 13-537 (C.D. Cal.) (RICO-conspiracy case against 31 members/associates of Mexican Mafia and affiliated gang); superseding indictment and multi-defendant trial in *United States v. Garcia-Reyes*, No. 12-606 (C.D. Cal.) (resulting in conviction of 15 out of 17 defendants, including two convictions at trial); successful recusal motion in *United States v. Perez*, No. 11-1238 (C.D. Cal.) (recusing federal judge for improper behavior toward defense and prosecution).
- Presented oral argument and co-authored briefs in *United States v. Christensen*, 801 F.3d 970 (9th Cir. 2015) (complex case with six appellants and 24 issues presented, regarding Anthony Pellicano wiretapping conspiracy).

- 2008 – 2011 **Assistant United States Attorney**, U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Columbia. Served in Felony Major Crimes Section and General Crimes Section. Prosecuted cases involving violent crime, gun and drug offenses, and opiate-diversion healthcare fraud. Made regular court appearances and conducted frequent trials in D.C. Superior Court. Major cases include *United States v. Tornero*, No. 2009-CF3-6524 (D.C. Super. Ct.) (four-week jury trial resulting in convictions on 12 violent-crime charges, and leading to related sexual assault prosecution later).
- 2005 – 2008 **Associate**, Baker Botts LLP (Washington, D.C.). Trial and appellate litigation in civil and criminal cases, including *Free Enterprise Fund v. Pub. Co. Accounting Oversight Bd.*, 2007 WL 891675 (D.D.C. 2007), and 537 F.3d 667 (D.C. Cir. 2008) (defended federal regulatory agency against separation-of-powers challenge); *United States v. Rasberry*, No. 05-50190 (5th Cir.) (as court-appointed defense counsel, wrote brief resulting in negotiated six-year sentence reduction); *SEC v. Jones*, 476 F. Supp. 2d 374 (S.D.N.Y. 2007) (securities law); *Polymer Dynamics, Inc. v. Bayer Corp.*, 341 F. App’x 771 (3d Cir. 2009) (representing family-owned company in cross-appeals regarding dispute with international manufacturer); and *United States v. Davis*, No. 06-193 (D.D.C.) (as pro bono attorney, second-chaired defense in criminal trial; conviction subsequently reversed based on objections we raised at trial).
- 2004 – 2005 **Law Clerk to the Honorable Sandra Day O’Connor**, Supreme Court of the United States.
- 2003 – 2004 **Associate**, O’Melveny & Myers LLP (Washington, D.C.). Litigation in federal and state courts, in cases including *Pliler v. Ford*, 542 U.S. 225 (2004) (amicus brief on behalf of National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers).
- 2002 – 2003 **Law Clerk to the Honorable Merrick B. Garland**, U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit.
- Summer, 2001 **Summer Associate**, Mayer, Brown & Platt LLP (Chicago, Illinois), and Jenner & Block LLP (Washington, D.C.).
- 1997 – 1999 **Case Assistant**, Goodwin, Procter & Hoar LLP (Boston, Massachusetts).
- 1996 – 1997 **Deputy Campaign Manager**, Committee to Elect Martha Coakley (Boston, Massachusetts).

Education

- 1999 – 2002 **Stanford Law School** (Palo Alto, California). J.D. 2002.
- Graduated first in class, Order of the Coif, and with distinction. GPA: 3.98.
 - First Year Prize, Second Year Prize, and Nathan Abbott Prize. Belcher Prize in Evidence.
 - Executive Editor, *Stanford Law Review*. Wrote student note: *Commerce Clause Questions After Morrison: Notes on the New Formalism and the New Realism*, 55 STAN. L. REV. 571 (2002).
 - Research and Teaching Assistant to Dean Kathleen Sullivan (constitutional law). Research Assistant to Professor Deborah Rhode (legal ethics and antidiscrimination law).
 - Member, university-wide disciplinary panel. Volunteer, East Palo Alto Community Law Center.
 - Violin and chamber music studies with members of the St. Lawrence String Quartet. Recipient, Brest-LaFollette-Culley music scholarship.
- 1992 – 1996 **Amherst College** (Amherst, Massachusetts). A.B. 1996.
- Graduated *magna cum laude*, Phi Beta Kappa. Interdisciplinary major in Theories of Politics and Literature. Honors thesis: “Political Understandings: An Essay on Reason, Interpretation, and Consensus.” Crowell and Billings Prizes. Member, Amherst College Orchestra and Amherst College Water Polo. Volunteer, English-language tutoring program for Tibetan refugees. Student jobs at Valentine Dining Hall and Amherst College Music Department.

Selected Presentations

- Presenter, *Oral Advocacy in State and Federal Appellate Courts*, California Department of Justice (Online: Mar. 14, 2023).
- Presenter, *Discretionary Review Courts and Courts of Last Resort*, California Department of Justice (Online: Sept. 15, 2021).
- Panelist, *Litigation Update – Part 2*, Attorney General Alliance (Online: July 28, 2020).
- Presenter, *Oral Advocacy in State and Federal Appellate Courts*, California Department of Justice (San Diego and Oakland: September 24 and October 3, 2019).
- Speaker at brown-bag lunch for U.C. Hastings students interested in public and government service (San Francisco: February 26, 2019).
- Moderator, *New Developments for Federal Litigators*, California Lawyers Association Litigation Summit (San Francisco: October 5, 2018).
- Panelist, *Preview of 2017 U.S. Supreme Court Term*, Bar Association of San Francisco (San Francisco: October 10, 2017).
- Presenter, *Review Granted: Now What? Writing Effective Merits Briefs for the California Supreme Court*, California Department of Justice (San Francisco and San Diego: August 17 & 22, 2017).
- Panelist, *U.S. Supreme Court: Review of 2015 Term and Preview of 2016 Term*, Contra Costa County Bar Association (Walnut Creek: November 18, 2016).
- Presenter, *Discretionary Review and Policymaking Courts*, California Department of Justice (San Francisco, Oakland, and Sacramento: August 16-18, 2016).
- Panelist, *Great Expectations: What Appellate Lawyers Expect from Appellate Judges, and Vice Versa*, American Bar Association Annual Meeting (San Francisco: August 5, 2016).
- Panelist, *California Supreme Court: Looking Back and Looking Forward*, Bar Association of San Francisco (San Francisco: April 27, 2016).

Other

- Trustee, Contra Costa County Public Law Library (appointed by Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors to oversee free law library serving unrepresented litigants, the public, and the legal community).
- Volunteer Mentor (2020-present), The Appellate Project (mentoring project designed to increase diversity among practitioners of appellate law).
- Member, American Constitution Society, Contra Costa County Bar Association, Bar Association of San Francisco, Jewish Bar Association of San Francisco, Federal Bar Association, American Bar Association, and California Lawyers Association Litigation Section. Honorary Member, Commercial Bar Association of England and Wales.
- Member of Executive Committee, Appellate Section of the Bar Association of San Francisco (2015-present). Past chair (2017-2018), vice-chair (2016-2017), and member (2014-2016), Committee on Federal Courts of the California State Bar and California Lawyers Association.
- Member, Edward J. McFetridge Inn of Court (San Francisco: 2014-present); past member, Los Angeles Criminal Justice Inn of Court (2012-2014), Edward Bennett Williams Inn of Court (Washington, D.C.: 2009-2011), and American Inns of Court Temple Bar Scholarship Committee (2013); Temple Bar Scholar (London: 2005).
- Trial-advocacy training through the National Institute for Trial Advocacy (NITA) and the U.S. Department of Justice National Advocacy Center (NAC).
- Personal interests include cooking, violin and chamber music, banjo, history, and literature.