

LUCINDA LESSLEY

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EXPERIENCE

Senior Investigator

January 2020—Present

Committee on Homeland Security

- Lead Committee investigations, including composing document requests, conducting transcribed interviews, and formulating hearing strategies. Conducted investigations of:
 - CBP operations, including deaths in Border Patrol custody. Identified deficiencies in the DHS Inspector General’s (IG) review of the deaths of children in custody that led the IG to correct its public reporting and initiate expanded reviews of detainee access to medical care.
 - Federal response to the coronavirus pandemic and supply chain management initiatives implemented by FEMA and HHS.
 - DHS’ improper ban on enrollment in Trusted Traveler programs by residents of the State of New York following enactment of New York’s “Green Light Law.”
- Manage whistleblower intake.
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Policy Director/Senior Investigator

January 2019—January 2020

Policy Director

January 2011—January 2019

Committee on Oversight and Reform (formerly Committee on Oversight and Government Reform)

- Managed Committee legislative staff and led development of policy initiatives, including:
 - Drug Policy:
 - Co-authored CARE Act (introduced by Rep. Elijah E. Cummings and Senator Elizabeth Warren) to create a Ryan White-like program that would provide \$100 billion over 10 years to expand access to substance use disorder treatment. Legislation was endorsed by more than 200 organizations, including American Medical Association, American Society of Addiction Medicine, and National Nurses United.
 - Co-authored and negotiated reauthorization of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) enacted in Subtitle K of the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act (Pub. L. 115-271).
 - Civil Rights: Authored Elijah E. Cummings Federal Employee Antidiscrimination Act of 2020 enacted as Title XI, Subtitle B of NDAA for Fiscal Year 2021 to strengthen Federal Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) programs.
- Led investigations, including composing document requests, supervising document review, conducting transcribed interviews, formulating hearing strategies, and drafting all hearing materials.
 - Conducted investigations in financial services, consumer protection, homeland security, civil rights and whistleblower protection, drug policy, and housing, including conducting oversight of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, FDIC, Federal Reserve, TSA, ONDCP, Coast Guard, National Park Service, and Postal Service.
 - Lead author of 2019 Committee staff report detailing failings in anti-harassment programs at the Coast Guard Academy. Report recommendations led to extensive revisions in Coast Guard processes for investigating allegations of harassment and bullying.
 - Conducted oversight of Federal response to the Great Recession, including bank bailouts and housing programs under the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP).
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Legislative Director
Office of Congressman Elijah E. Cummings (D-MD)

August 2010—August 2014

- Managed personal office legislative staff, assigned tasks, and approved staff work products.
- Formulated vote recommendations, managed legislative initiatives and special projects, and wrote floor speeches, press releases, and talking points. Supervised submission of all appropriations requests.
- Authored American Mariners Job Protection Act (H.R. 3202—112th Congress) enacted in Title III of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2012 (Pub. L. 112-213). Legislation amended Title 46 to increase transparency surrounding the issuance of Jones Act waivers.
- Managed transition of Rep. Cummings into role as Ranking Member on Oversight Committee, including overseeing all staffing selections.

Professional Staff Member
Subcommittee on Coast Guard & Maritime Transportation/Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

January 2007—January 2011

- Organized more than 40 Subcommittee hearings on such topics as Coast Guard acquisition policies, search and rescue operations, mariner licensing, U.S.-flagged fleet, drug and migrant interdiction, the Jones Act, and oil spill response.
- Conducted extensive investigation of contracting failures in the Coast Guard's Deepwater procurements of assets to be used more than 50 miles from shore that led the Coast Guard to bring the role of lead systems integrator back in-house and reconfigure its acquisition functions.
- Authored the Coast Guard Acquisition Reform Act enacted as Title IV of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010 (Pub. L. 111-281). Legislation strengthened Coast Guard acquisition processes, including:
 - creating in statute the position of Chief Acquisition Officer and establishing professional qualification requirements for the position;
 - establishing an acquisitions directorate;
 - prohibiting the use of lead systems integrators; and
 - establishing limits on undefinitized contractual actions.

Legislative Assistant
Office of Congressman Elijah E. Cummings (D-MD)

January 2005—December 2006

- Managed Member's work on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, including the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit and the Subcommittee on Railroads.
 - Authored legislation enacted in the SAFETEA-LU Act (Pub. L. 109-59) that created a Hazardous Materials Cooperative Research Program within the Transportation Research Board at the National Academies.
 - Managed Member's role as lead Democrat on special Amtrak working group.
- Managed Member's work on Joint Economic Committee and handled economic and financial policy issues.

Policy Analyst

September 2002—December 2004

Department of Legislative Services, Maryland General Assembly

- Maintained financial models of Maryland’s \$3 billion Transportation Trust Fund. Modeled revenues from Maryland’s tolled highway facilities.
- Prepared analyses of Governor’s annual budget allocations for Maryland Transit Administration, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), and Maryland Port Administration and presented recommendations to the budget committees of the Maryland State Senate and Maryland House of Delegates.
- Analyzed Governor’s proposal for financing construction of the InterCounty Connector (ICC) highway. Recommended restrictions on the use of GARVEE bonds adopted by the General Assembly during the 2004 legislative session.

EDUCATION

Master of Science (MSc), Public Administration and Public Policy, The London School of Economics (United Kingdom)

Fulbright Scholarship, Germany

Bachelor of Arts (A.B.), Washington University in St. Louis