

Contact

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Top Skills

Strategic Planning

Strategic Communications

Public policy development

Angela Kelley

Chief Advisor American Immigration Lawyers Association/American Immigration Council (former Senior Immigration Counselor to DHS Secretary)

Washington, District of Columbia, United States

Experience

American Immigration Lawyers Association/American Immigration Council

Chief Advisor, Policy and Partnerships

June 2022 - Present (1 year 3 months)

Washington DC

Chief Advisor to American Immigration Lawyers Association and related 501(c)(3), American Immigration Council. Advise on matters related to policy, politics, strategic alliances and communications. Develop strategies for increasing the effectiveness and impact of both organizations as well as strengthening support for progressive immigration policies.

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Senior Counselor for Immigration and Border to the Secretary, Department of Homeland Security

January 2021 - May 2022 (1 year 5 months)

Washington, District of Columbia, United States

Senior Counselor to the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security. Provided substantive and strategic advice and direction to the Secretary. Led team of seasoned immigration counselors in developing policy, coordinating with DHS components (ICE, CBP & USCIS), DHS Offices of Public Affairs, Legislative Affairs and Public Engagement and General Counsel, as well as other relevant government agencies in policy implementation. Areas of focus included interior enforcement, detention, TPS, DACA, legal immigration, border security and management and asylum.

Biden-Harris Transition Team

Lead Volunteer

September 2021 - January 2022 (5 months)

Washington, District of Columbia, United States

Managed team of legal and policy experts in developing, writing and preparing for implementation the administration's executive orders, DHS policy memos and other materials needed for the start of the administration. Matters addressed by the team included, DACA, legal immigration, interior and border

enforcement, legislation, family reunification and Temporary Protected Status (TPS) among others.

American Immigration Lawyers Association

Senior Policy Advisor for Immigration

April 2020 - January 2021 (10 months)

Advise senior leadership team on policy, advocacy and communications strategies and planning. Provide counsel to Executive Director on all matters, including governance, strategic planning and organizational development. Support senior team's efforts to strengthen AILA's public presence with policy makers, press and public.

Open Society Foundations

Senior Strategic Advisor for Immigration

February 2017 - April 2020 (3 years 3 months)

In collaboration with the nation's leading experts, develop immigration and refugee focused advocacy strategy and campaigns at the federal level and ideas for sensible immigration policies. Devise Open Society Foundation's 501(c)(4) grantmaking strategies. Significantly increased annual immigration advocacy grant making from a few hundred-thousand dollars to several million dollars. Regularly act as a resource to elected officials, press and media outlets, community leaders and advocates on range of topics including immigration, refugee, integration, Latino and progressive politics.

CENTER FOR AMERICAN PROGRESS ACTION FUND

Executive Director

August 2015 - February 2017 (1 year 7 months)

Oversaw CAPAF's War Room, Think Progress, Legal Progress and Public Lands programs with a staff of over 50 and \$7.5 million budget at nation's leading progressive think tank. Primary responsibilities included fundraising, strategic planning, management, and driving CAPAF's communications efforts aimed at influencing the national narrative around progressive policies on a range of topics including the economy, national security, immigration and climate. Worked in close coordination with CAP's policy and government affairs teams, executed sophisticated media and advocacy campaigns.

The White House, Domestic Policy Council

Immigration Advisor/Consultant

November 2014 - January 2015 (3 months)

Organized and oversaw execution of internal operations of White House around President Obama's November 2014 Immigration Executive Actions. Worked in close coordination with the Office of Legislative Affairs, Domestic Policy Council, Office of Legal Counsel, Office of Public Engagement, Communications and Office of the Chief of Staff to ensure successful coordination and advancement of the President's actions. Played lead role in working with outside stakeholders to ensure smooth implementation, devised media strategies, as well as short, medium and long term planning.

Center for American Progress

Vice President, Immigration Policy

April 2009 - November 2014 (5 years 8 months)

As an established leader of the immigration rights movement and expert on the policy, politics and history of the issues, played leadership role in driving successful multi-dimensional advocacy campaigns. Worked closely with a range of national and local stakeholders forging on-going strategies aimed at securing legislation and executive reforms, as well as defending against restrictionist forces seeking to limit immigrants' rights and poison the nation's consciousness towards the foreign-born specifically and people of color generally. Examples of successful efforts include House passage of the DREAM Action (2010), Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (2012) and Senate passed immigration legislation (2013). Extensive communications, Hill, White House and agency experience. Highly sought-after by media for commentary and analysis on policy and politics, as well as by government officials for opinion and strategic advice. Regularly convened colleagues and leaders, spoke to varied audiences from foundation boards to elected officials, and partnered with colleagues across the progressive movement on the intersection of immigration and other social justice issues.

Created highly effective team that influenced the national conversation, political salience and shape of policy regarding the nation's foreign-born. Oversaw the development, publication and strategic distribution of numerous research and policy papers including ground-breaking research on economic aspects of immigration, impact of federal policies and state immigration laws, political implications of nation's demographic shifts and numerous other topics. Cultivated collaborations across policy teams within CAP, thereby enhancing organizational reach and impact. Successfully recruited, managed and retained team of professionals. Raised \$1-1.2 million annually to fully staff immigration team and support other positions within CAP.

American Immigration Council

Director, Immigration Policy

September 2007 - April 2009 (1 year 8 months)

Led “go to” organization that provided rapid response and affirmative research material to broad and influential audiences on range of immigration-related issues. Responsible for overall management, fundraising, strategy development and execution of IPC’s policy and research priorities. Created and oversaw an effective system for rapid response to counter negative messages promulgated by well-oiled restrictionist groups by partnering with key advocates, academics, and anti-hate organizations. Catalyzed and coordinated affirmative strategic research and advanced communications efforts to promote the flow of accurate information and sound policy options in support of reform efforts. Advised and informed Hill offices on a myriad of immigration issues. Initiated and completed strategic planning, raised \$1.3 million in new support for IPC, established multi-faceted communications shop and expanded program staff. Played lead role in Executive Committee of immigration reform legislative campaign, co-chaired legislative and communications tables.

National Immigration Forum

Deputy Director

April 1991 - September 2007 (16 years 6 months)

POLICY & ADVOCACY

Developed and executed multi-faceted advocacy strategies. Built strong relationships with Hill offices. Developed & steered ad hoc working alliances with stakeholders from across the political spectrum. Chaired coalition of national advocacy organizations Led legislative strategy of major immigrant advocacy & reform efforts. Provided political analysis, technical assistance, training and support to congressional offices, national and local advocates, labor, business & other key allies.

MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS

Carried out extensive media related responsibilities including interviews, press events & communications outreach to reporters, producers and editorial boards. Developed effective message and media strategies and trainings. Met with government officials and spoke publicly to a wide range of audiences. Developed, from concept to distribution, advocacy materials for use in lobbying & media work.

SPECIFIC CAMPAIGNS

- Managed Forum legislative and media efforts in passage of landmark Senate reform legislation (2006)

- Led collaboration with allies and policy makers in the years following 9/11 attacks and advocacy against Department of Justice and congressional efforts to expand enforcement (2002)
- Managed lobbying efforts leading to passage of the Legal Immigration and Family Equity Act (2000)
- Coordinated successful campaigns for Haitian (Haitian Refugee Fairness Act of 1998) and Central American refugees (Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act of 1997)
- Additional efforts: restoration of safety net benefits for legal immigrants, pro-citizenship campaign, left/right efforts to blunt restrictive provisions in 1996 immigration legislation, liaison with the INS and NGO's on revamped asylum programs and implementation of TPS for Salvadorans.

MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Supervised 18 staff. Oversaw work-load, conducted staff evaluations, managed HR matters, developed fundraising strategies, organizational planning & Board engagement.

Ayuda

Staff Attorney

September 1988 - June 1990 (1 year 10 months)

Managed substantial case-load and represented low-income clients in deportation proceedings in immigration courts. Prepared asylum applications, visa petitions, consular processing and adjustment of status applications. Litigated domestic violence and domestic relations cases in DC Superior Court. Prepared legal pleadings and briefs for argument before the D.C. Superior Court, Immigration Courts and Board of Immigration Appeals. Interviewed clients in English and Spanish. Oversaw legal interns' case-load.

Education

Georgetown University Law Center

Women's Law and Public Policy Center Fellowship

The George Washington University Law School

Juris Doctor, Law