

# RICHARD CESAR

## EDUCATION

### University of Wisconsin Law School

*Juris Doctor*

Madison, WI

May 2014

**Certification:** *Entrepreneurship*, Wisconsin School of Business (May 2014)

**Leadership:** Black Law Students Association: Executive Director (2013-2014), Student Bar Association: Executive Board (2012-2013)

**Journal:** *Wisconsin International Law Journal*, Articles Editor

### University of Pennsylvania

*Bachelor of Arts, Philosophy, Politics (Political Science) & Economics*

Philadelphia, PA

May 2010

**Certification:** *Spanish*

**Study Abroad:** Universidad Torcuato Di Tella – Buenos Aires, Argentina (2008)

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### Los Angeles County Workforce Development, Aging & Community Services

*Senior Public Policy and Program Manager*

Los Angeles, CA

October 2018 – Present

- Serve as the Economic and Business Development Division lead on matters related to Board motions, state and federal legislation, policy, strategic planning, public affairs, economic development coordination, strategic partnerships and Board mandated workforce and economic development programming.
- Supervise 4 staff and 3 Public Policy Fellows, providing direction on program implementation and execution strategy, reviewing policy proposals, legislative analysis, data analysis, and Board reports, and conducting both formal and informal evaluations to promote staff's professional development.
- Spearheaded the execution of the *Los Angeles County Works* initiative, a cross-departmental, Board of Supervisors mandated initiative, to identify strategies and recommendations to spur economic recovery in Los Angeles County through intensive labor market research, engagement with over 2,000 industry sector employers, partners and stakeholders, and development of critical policy and program solutions to address the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Developed and implemented the first State Employment Development Department (EDD) funded business grant program, known as the Los Angeles County Employer Assistance Grant Fund, which deployed \$500,000 to 59 COVID-19 impacted businesses across LA County, averted 311 employee layoffs, and retained over \$1.5 million in revenue.
- Designed and led the Department's efforts to deploy of \$47 million in Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding to over 1,430 COVID-19 impacted business across Los Angeles County, via the Employer Assistance Grant Fund, which helped avert over 5,700 employee layoffs, and retain over \$99.5 million in revenue.
- Spearhead the development, design, and implementation of the Jail-Based Job Center (JBJC) pilot program at the Los Angeles County women's jail, a Board of Supervisors mandated workforce program, with a budget of \$2 million dollars, designed to place over 200 justice-involved women in high growth sector career pathway employment and facilitate their successful reintegration into society.
- Serve as the lead project manager in the creation and implementation of the Cal-Fresh Employment and Training (CFET) Expansion initiative, a federal and state program that allows counties to leverage federal dollars to provide employment and training services to eligible Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) enrollees, in partnership with the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS).
- Engage in strategic partnerships with private and public sector employers in county growth sectors to place individuals with barriers to employment in the career sectors of construction, technology, hospitality, manufacturing, entertainment, and digital media.
- Collaborate with executive-level staff to develop the Department's strategic plan and advise leadership on methods to achieve desired outcomes.
- Serve as project lead for the creation of the Los Angeles County Business Solutions Portfolio, a comprehensive hardcopy and digital resource guide, created in partnership with the CEO, CIO, LAEDC, and 16 county departments, that details the services and programs the County offers to businesses, including direct points of contact for businesses to access such resources.

# RICHARD CESAR

- Draft Board letters and reports to the Board on department activities related to business engagement, program development, and initiatives aimed at the strategic alignment of economic and workforce development program delivery across the County's 35 workforce development programs.
- Work closely with the CEO, Sacramento Advocates, and the California Workforce Association (CWA) to identify, track, analyze, and recommend positions on legislation impacting the county's programs and service delivery.
- Create and advocate for the Department's state and federal legislative agenda and policy initiatives.
- Drafted Senate Bill 1333, known as the California Homeless Hiring Tax Credit, and worked closely with bill authors, lobbyists, stakeholders, and over 30 sponsoring organizations, including CWA, Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC), United Way, and the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, to advocate for adoption of the legislation and inclusion in California's state budget.
- Provide recommendations to the Division Director on business engagement strategies to ensure workers with multiple barriers to employment are placed in family-sustaining career pathway employment, and to help businesses grow and thrive in the regional county economy.
- Developed, organized, and executed 2 full-day trainings for over 80 county staff at the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs (DCBA), Office of Education, DPSS, and America's Job Center's of California (AJCCs) on how to effectively connect businesses to various programs and services offered across the county.
- Traveled to Washington D.C. to present to members of Congress on the key workforce initiatives in Los Angeles County and advocate for additional funding to enhance service delivery across the Los Angeles workforce region and spur economic activity across California.
- Presented on a panel for the National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) titled "The ABCs of Business Engagement: Economic Growth Through Leveraging Technology & Unique Populations" to share my knowledge of best practices on business engagement and relationship development through technology to place unique populations experiencing barriers to employment.
- Participated in a panel hosted by Congressman Jimmy Gomez (CA-34) to share information on resources available within Los Angeles County to assist businesses and workers impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Supervise 4 staff and 3 Public Policy Fellows.
- Lead special projects for the Division Director that include analyzing program data and departmental policies to recommend solutions to streamline Department operations internally and externally.

## **JKH Consulting**

**Los Angeles, CA**

*Workforce and Community Relations Manager*

March 2018 – October 2018

- Served as a consultant for a full-service public affairs firm that manages over 23 clients in industries including infrastructure, real estate, government, business advocacy, and politics.
- Provided direction on workforce development activities for the LA Metro Crenshaw/LAX Transit Project, a \$2 billion-dollar light rail construction project spanning 8.5 miles, to ensure that the contractor, Walsh/Shea, achieved local target hire requirements, in compliance with the project labor agreement.
- Managed community engagement activities on LA Metro Crenshaw/LAX Transit project to adequately communicate project updates to residents of South LA, Inglewood, Hawthorne, El Segundo, and portions of unincorporated Los Angeles County.
- Managed business engagement and workforce development efforts for the \$2 billion-dollar LAX Automated People Mover Project by implementing small business and local job seeker inclusion strategies to ensure contractor, LAX Integrated Express Solutions (LINXS), complied with project labor agreement terms.
- Advised clients on effective public affairs strategies and partnered with business and construction trades unions alike to connect hundreds of small businesses and job seekers to potential opportunities.

## **Balfour Beatty Construction**

**Los Angeles, CA**

*Inclusion & Diversity Coordinator*

September 2017 – March 2018

- Managed small business inclusion and community engagement efforts to increase Balfour's involvement in the Southern California market.
- Represented the company in over 14 outreach events geared at educating small businesses and job seekers on how to attain employment opportunities with Balfour Beatty and other contractors on large scale infrastructure projects across California.

# RICHARD CESAR

- Developed a resource guide to direct small businesses to services across Southern California, offering access to capital, business technical assistance, bonding assistance, and counseling.
- Fostered relationships with over 15 non-profits, adult schools, high schools, and elementary schools to further the philanthropic goals of the company.
- Helped draft the LAX Integrated Express Solutions (LINXS) inclusivity section of proposal for the \$2 billion-dollar LAX Automated People Mover Project.

## **Office of the Secretary, United States Department of Transportation**

**Washington, D.C.**

*Special Counsel to the General Counsel (Presidential Appointee)*

February 2016 – January 2017

- Served as Special Counsel in the Office of the General Counsel, the Secretary's primary legal advisor, responsible for the supervision, coordination and review of the legal work of almost 500 lawyers throughout the Department.
- Counseled leadership on legal, policy, political and practical alternatives to successfully develop and implement strategies and programs that advanced the mission of the Department.
- Advised government affairs and policy staff on the legal considerations regarding congressional affairs, grant administration, and the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).
- Drafted responses to a growing number of oversight requests from Congress, the Office of the Inspector General, and the U.S. Government Accountability Office.
- Prepared and edited memoranda, policy proposals, talking points, press releases, and speeches.

*Detailed as Special Assistant to the Secretary (Presidential Appointee)*

January 2015 – February 2016

- Managed Secretary Foxx's political, media, security, constituent, and public affairs activities for his official travel by working closely with senior leadership, congressional members, state and local politicians, business and community leaders, companies, universities, embassies, and various other stakeholders.
- Traveled domestically and internationally with Secretary Foxx to facilitate his public appearances, develop and foster relationships, and guarantee logistical execution.
- Collaborated with senior leadership to design and implement Secretary Foxx's Ladders of Opportunity Agenda, an initiative aimed at connecting Americans to economic and workforce opportunities, revitalizing the national economy, and strengthening access to jobs, healthcare, and transportation for communities with multiple barriers.
- Supervised 2 members of the Secretary's scheduling team responsible for preparing the Secretary's daily briefing book and scheduling his internal meetings in order to ensure staff submitted quality briefing memoranda and that his time was aligned with his priorities.
- Aided the Chief of Staff and Deputy Chief of Staff with special projects to improve front office processes.

*Special Assistant to the Chief Financial Officer (Presidential Appointee)*

August 2014 – January 2015

- Supported the Chief Financial Officer, the principal fiscal advisor to Secretary Foxx, in the management of an over \$70 billion-dollar operating budget, and a portfolio of innovative financing programs for infrastructure projects, including the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) and Transportation Investments Generating Economic Recovery Grants (TIGER).
- Enhanced the budget development process by working with modal budget offices and senior leadership to ensure expectations were met and budget justifications were properly formulated for consideration by the White House and Congress.

## **Law & Entrepreneurship Clinic, University of Wisconsin Law School**

**Madison, WI**

*Student Attorney*

September 2013 – May 2014

- Counseled 14 Wisconsin based start-up companies, entrepreneurs, and nonprofit organizations on corporate structuring, contracts, tax, intellectual property, employment, and a variety of other legal issues.
- Drafted employee agreements, terms of service, privacy policies, operating agreements, consignment agreements, USPTO responses, and memoranda on legal issues relevant in entrepreneurial ventures.

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**Office of Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson, Wisconsin Supreme Court**  
*Judicial Intern*

**Madison, WI**  
May 2013 – August 2013

- Authored bench memoranda, researched legislative history, discussed legal issues with Justice, and recommended dispositions on a variety of cases pertaining to corporate law, tort law, and criminal law.

**Family Law Project, Frank J. Remington Center**  
*Student Attorney*

**Madison, WI**  
May 2012 – May 2013

- Provided legal services to prison inmates with family law issues including divorce, child support, paternity, placement, and custody.
- Managed a caseload of 9 clients located at various prison facilities across the state of Wisconsin.
- Representative projects included: drafting motions to modify placement and child support, drafting motions to vacate judgments, preparing marital settlement agreements, drafting petitions and orders, negotiating with opposing attorneys, and, under supervision, advocating in hearings.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

**Bar Admissions:**

State Bar of California (active), State Bar of Wisconsin (active)

**Campaign Experience:**

Get Out the Vote (2008), Voter Protection (2016), Get Out the Vote (2020)

**Memberships:**

LA County Management Council (LACMC), Langston Bar Association

**Skills and Interests:**

Haitian Creole (fluent), Spanish (conversational), hiking, live music, sports