

Contact

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Top Skills

Legal Writing

Legal Research

Litigation

Jonathan Parnes

Oversight Counsel at Department of Homeland Security Office of General Counsel

Washington, District of Columbia, United States

Experience

Department of Homeland Security, Office of the General Counsel
Oversight Counsel

June 2022 - Present (1 year 3 months)

Washington, District of Columbia, United States

House Committee on Homeland Security

3 years 6 months

Senior Investigative Counsel

September 2021 - June 2022 (10 months)

Counsel

January 2019 - September 2021 (2 years 9 months)

Washington D.C. Metro Area

- Led investigation on conditions at Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention facilities. Drafted Majority Staff Report, entitled "ICE Detention Facilities: Failing to Meet Basic Standards of Care," and organized virtual forum with Members to be held in conjunction with the release of the report.
- Organized several hearings for the Subcommittee on Oversight, Management, & Accountability, including one on the oversight of conditions at Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention facilities. Drafted memos and briefed the Chairwoman of the Subcommittee to prepare her for the hearings. Drafted questions and opening statements for the members.
- Initiated and led multiple investigations in response to whistleblower complaints. In one instant, successfully worked with the Transportation Security Administration to take corrective action following several complaints that employees' workers compensation claims were not being handled properly.
- Drafted legislation and supportive talking points, floor statements, and fact sheets to authorize programs within the Department of Homeland Security.
- Prepared Chairman Thompson for and staffed meetings with senior officials at the Department of Homeland Security, including the Inspector General, Chief Privacy Officer, and Director of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers.

Department of Homeland Security, Office of Inspector General
Attorney

March 2016 - January 2019 (2 years 11 months)

Washington D.C.

- Investigated the Department's implementation of its family separation policy. Conducted unannounced inspections and interviews at the border to identify potential problem areas that required further review. One of three primary drafters of the final report, Initial Observations Regarding Family Separation Issues Under the Zero Tolerance Policy. Met with Senate and House staff to explain the report's findings.
- Led an investigation, in response to a Congressional inquiry, into allegations of misconduct at the Transportation Security Administration. Interviewed senior government officials including the TSA Administrator and the Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis.
- Conducted an investigation and drafted a report delivered to members of Congress regarding the U.S. Immigration and Custom Enforcement's removal process for immigrants with a final order of deportation.
- Advise and collaborate with Special Agents in investigations of several whistleblower retaliation complaints.

United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan
Law Clerk

April 2014 - July 2015 (1 year 4 months)

Ann Arbor

- Developed policies and procedures for newly appointed federal judge, including a system for clerks to use to review whether plaintiffs with new complaints had jurisdiction to file in our court.
- Drafted several opinions and memoranda including a claim construction order that accurately described complicated technologies and legal issues while remaining understandable to a layperson.

United States Attorney's Office

Special Assistant US Attorney

April 2013 - April 2014 (1 year 1 month)

Detroit, MI

- Led investigation of alleged discrimination under the Fair Housing Act and collaborated with HUD investigators to determine the validity of allegations that a public housing unit refused to accept African-American applicants.
- Conducted several investigations of private and public entities for potential violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act, including an investigation of a

school district for allegedly failing to provide interpreters to hard-of-hearing and deaf parents.

- Negotiated settlement with national transportation company following investigation of a complaint that a woman with a service animal was refused transportation. Secured a cash settlement for the complainant and assisted the company in developing new policies and training materials.
- Successfully defended the United State Postal Service in a Federal Tort Claims Act suit. Deposed the plaintiff; defended the deposition of USPS employees; and subpoenaed and reviewed medical records.
- Won two appeals before the Sixth Circuit

Wilmer Hale

Associate

September 2010 - December 2012 (2 years 4 months)

- Prepared memos for partners meeting with government officials in DOJ, SEC, and Senate investigation of an international bank. Worked directly with the client, partners, and other consultants at the bank's headquarters to determine how to best conduct an internal investigation within the bank's existing record-keeping systems.
- Conducted research for the filing of dispositive motions and briefs at the district and appellate level, including a matter dealing with complex preemption and environmental law questions.
- Advised civil liberties organization as it determined whether to challenge a state's civil asset forfeiture statute.
- Represented a Vietnam veteran in three separate tracks of administrative review before the Department of Veterans Affairs: a successful new claim for the veteran's ankle injury, an appeal of his prior disability ratings, and a response to a newly proposed disability rating.

National Veterans Legal Services Program

Law Fellow

October 2009 - October 2010 (1 year 1 month)

- Drafted appellate briefs for the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.
- Advised potential members of a class action for discharged veterans with PTSD on the benefits of joining the suit.

WilmerHale

Summer Associate

May 2008 - August 2008 (4 months)

DC Bar Pro Bono Program

Legal Intern

May 2007 - August 2007 (4 months)

Worked with the Landlord and Tenant Resource Center to help provide legal information to people representing themselves in Landlord and Tenant Court. Developed a review of the Center and offered a list of recommendations for improvement

Center for American Progress

Intern

September 2005 - February 2006 (6 months)

Assisted the External Affairs department in reaching out to members of Congress. Researched and developed policy arguments against TABOR referendum for state and local leaders to use.

John Kerry for President

Research Intern

May 2004 - August 2004 (4 months)

The World Bank

Intern in the Legal Department

May 2003 - August 2003 (4 months)

Assisted drafting a report on interenational remittances for ministers attending an APEC confernce

Education

Georgetown University Law Center

JD · (2006 - 2009)

Tufts University

B.A., International Relations, Italian · (2001 - 2005)