

Contact

www.linkedin.com/in/india-pinkney-abrom-2a84051 (LinkedIn)

Top Skills

International Negotiations

Public Diplomacy

Cultural Diplomacy

Languages

English (Native or Bilingual)

French

Honors-Awards

UVA Lawyer, Spring 2018, Standard-bearers: Outstanding Black Alumni

UVA Lawyer, Fall 2017, Doing Good: These Law School Alumni Are Making a Difference in the Nonprofit World

Recipient of 2008 Federal Aviation Administration Outstanding Attorney Award

Recipient of 2007 Department of Transportation Super Achievement Award

Recipient, Outstanding Service Award, Washington Bar Association, 2003 and 2008

India Pinkney-Abrom

Executive & former General Counsel w/Career Intersecting Business, Law, & Policy Internationally & Domestically in the Arts & Aviation/Transportation Industries | Resolving Complex Legal & Business Matters Across Sectors

United States

Summary

Throughout my multifaceted career in corporate and federal arenas, I have served as a strategist and executor, business partner, trusted legal advisor, board member, diversity leader, and public speaker.

Early in my career, I served as a judicial law clerk, law firm associate, legal contractor at ExxonMobil, and attorney with the Federal Aviation Administration, where I litigated successfully before administrative and appellate courts. Selected as the first American to serve in the Legal Bureau of the United Nations' International Civil Aviation Organization, I worked in Montreal as a legal fellow and broke down cultural barriers through joint work and built coalitions. Continuing with the FAA and traveling across five continents, I successfully worked through challenging issues and influenced international law and compliance by advancing global aviation safety standards and legislation for foreign countries. In addition to handling high-level policy briefings and negotiating complex international agreements, I served on several U.S. delegations.

With an extensive legal career, I was selected as General Counsel of the NEA, where I built out the legal practice in a substantial way, help implement grants and national arts programs, create innovative frameworks for public-private partners, and expand key aspects of the Endowment's work in impactful and sustainable ways.

Among my career highlights was being invited to join the White House Equity Legal Working Group, focused on system effectiveness and longevity of diversity, equity and inclusion matters across federal agencies. Fueled with a passion for building value, I have created mission-driven initiatives to advance organizations and unlock opportunities in business for sustainable impact, and with global reach in different sectors. I have built legal frameworks to

bolster organizational structure and facilitate growth while integrating diversity efforts. I bring experience in systems thinking, policy work, and management and leadership, including engaging with senior leaders around creating new initiatives, taking risk and moving ideas from inception to execution.

With 20 years in compliance, I excel in tailoring risk management while enabling innovation. Equally strong in managing strategic and crisis communications, I have led coordination efforts regarding litigation as well as with policymakers at all levels of government and corporate executives; brought together groups with divergent priorities and values; and brokered understanding to realign interests and effectively resolve conflict.

Experience

Federal Aviation Administration

Executive Director, Office of International Affairs, API-1

January 2023 - Present (10 months)

Washington, District of Columbia, United States

Girl, Believe

Founder

August 2017 - Present (6 years 3 months)

Following my passion, I launched Girl, Believe, a program focusing on building self-esteem and empowerment of girls and young women through workshops and conferences, content creation, social media, and speaking engagements.

Highlights include:

- Established legal and business structure to mirror tech companies with social enterprise.
- Piloted and grew inaugural beta test workshop into a conference with 100+ attendees in less than two years and a growing social media presence with international reach.
- Developed diverse programming topics covering self-image, civic engagement, athletics, international work, and STEM.

National Endowment for the Arts

11 years 10 months

General Counsel

August 2012 - December 2022 (10 years 5 months)

Serving on the executive team, I lead the Office of General Counsel with agency-wide accountability for legal affairs and ethics compliance as designated Chief Ethics and Legal Compliance Officer as well as General Counsel. With legal purview reaching all aspects of the organization, I provide legal counsel to the NEA Chair, presidentially appointed National Council on the Arts members, and senior management.

Highlights include:

- Built out and refined the legal practice overseeing 20 areas of law, leading to successful implementation of NEA work, annual audits, performance measures, and cost savings.
- Strategically established and executed a complex set of risk and legal agreements to implement grants and national arts programs.
- Created frameworks for public-private partnerships, negotiated transactional agreements, and managed intellectual property matters.
- Lead the agency-wide Executive Order Working Group. Served as agency co-lead for the presidential transition.
- Appointed to the White House Equity Legal Working Group to address DEIA matters across federal agencies. Led the GC Exchange Employment Law Subgroup in coordination with the Partnership for Public Service to address pandemic-related matters.
- Structured legal aspects of major agency productions for national audiences in partnership with major U.S. arts and cultural institutions. Pivoted to impactful virtual programming with national viewership.

Previous roles: Acting General Counsel, Assistant General Counsel

Assistant General Counsel

March 2011 - August 2012 (1 year 6 months)

Federal Aviation Administration

9 years 2 months

Attorney, International Affairs & Legal Policy, Office of the Chief Counsel

September 2006 - March 2011 (4 years 7 months)

As part of an interdisciplinary team, I managed office operations for the division head in his absence, including strategy plans, performance plans, and organizational management. Traveling extensively, I worked with heads of civil aviation authorities, foreign ministries, and U.S. embassies.

Highlights include:

- Served as FAA lead counsel and negotiator of U.S. Department of Transportation's Safe Skies for Africa program.
- Helped negotiate the first update to security convention aviation in 40 years.
- Negotiated complex international contracts for products, services, and technology.
- Served as legal auditor on U.S. Government International Aviation Safety Assessment Program and technical assistance teams.
- Served on U.S. delegations for 2010 Beijing diplomatic conference on aviation security and 2010 ICAO assembly.

Attorney, Enforcement Division, Office of the Chief Counsel
February 2002 - September 2006 (4 years 8 months)

Managed, litigated, and provided representation on matters concerning regulations and aviation.

- Litigated successfully before administrative and appellate courts.
- Facilitated with Aviation Safety, Air Traffic Organization, and other business lines around key enforcement matters.

The International Civil Aviation Organization

FAA-ICAO Fellow

May 2005 - May 2006 (1 year 1 month)

Appointed the first U.S. attorney to serve in the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Legal Bureau.

Highlights include:

- Advised ICAO bodies on international and commercial law.
- Opened channels of collaboration through joint work on long-term efforts, diplomatic conferences, and negotiations.
- Gained deep understanding of United Nations operations and expertise in international policy and external relations.

ExxonMobil

Contractor

2001 - 2002 (1 year)

- Drafted and prepared corporate provisions and disclosure documents along with state registration filings.
- Analyzed agreements and other transactions relating to franchise oil distribution.

Baker Hostetler LLP

Associate

1999 - 2001 (2 years)

- Worked with partners on all stages of commercial, employment, and international litigation.
- Counseled clients on telecommunications matters, business immigration, and international matters.

North Carolina Supreme Court

Judicial Law Clerk

1998 - 1999 (1 year)

- Served as a judicial for former Chief Justice Henry E. Frye Sr.

Education

University of Virginia School of Law

JD · (1995 - 1998)

University of Virginia

BA, Foreign Affairs & Middle Eastern Studies · (1991 - 1995)

Riverside High School

· (1987 - 1991)