

## Contact

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## Top Skills

Speech Writing  
Opinion Writing  
Media Relations

## Certifications

Certificate in Advanced Leadership Studies

## Publications

South Florida Should Be Proud of Rep. Ted Deutch

# Ashley Mushnick

Speechwriter at U.S. Department of Education  
Washington, District of Columbia, United States

## Summary

Ashley Mushnick is an award-winning speechwriter and communications strategist who has spent her career helping cabinet secretaries, government executives and members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives win arguments, inspire audiences, and earn news coverage. Ashley specializes in distilling complex policy issues into compelling and accessible speeches and keynote addresses, and her work has earned her principals coverage in top national news outlets, including CNN, the Washington Post, NowThis and the New York Times.

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## Experience

U.S. Department of Education  
Speechwriter

February 2022 - Present (1 year 7 months)

Washington, District of Columbia, United States

United States Senate

Speechwriter, U.S. Senator Bob Menendez (D-NJ)

February 2017 - February 2022 (5 years 1 month)

Writes floor speeches, keynotes, public remarks, talking points, op-eds and other statements for Democratic Senator Bob Menendez, the senior Senator from New Jersey, Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, and highest-ranking Latino in Congress.

Works across communications, legislative, and outreach teams to tailor speeches for a diverse range of audiences, including think tanks, national advocacy groups, New Jersey constituencies, trade associations, Senate committees, and the news media.

Speeches have won coverage in the Washington Post, the Associated Press, NJ.com, NowThis, CNN 360 with Anderson Cooper, WHYY, ABC-7, and other local and national news outlets.

2018 speech on gun violence excerpted in the latest edition of "The Political Speechwriter's Companion," the highly regarded industry textbook.

U.S. Department of Commerce  
Deputy Director of Speechwriting  
April 2016 - January 2017 (10 months)  
Washington, DC

Served political appointment in the Obama Administration as Deputy speechwriter to U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker and Deputy Secretary of Commerce Bruce Andrews.

Developed internal and external communications messages in close consultation with policy experts, trade specialists, economists, and agency leaders across the Commerce Department's 12 bureaus, each with unique constituencies in the U.S. business community.

Distilled complex economic policy into accessible, compelling speeches, articulating Administration policy on issues like cybersecurity, trade, manufacturing, patents and innovation.

Wrote high-stakes speeches for high-stakes domestic and international audiences, from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to President Obama's National Commission on Cybersecurity to influential think tanks, trade associations and other groups.

Shepherded speechwriting process from start to finish -- gathering policy material from experts, consulting principals, soliciting edits from stakeholders, clearing remarks with counsel, and delivering finalized product under tight deadlines.

U.S. House of Representatives  
Director of Communications & Policy, U.S. Rep. Ted Deutch  
April 2010 - April 2016 (6 years 1 month)

I spent a formative six years working for Congressman Ted Deutch, a Democratic member of the House Judiciary and Foreign Affairs committees. During this time I wore many hats: speechwriter, spokesperson, social media manager, press secretary and policy advisor.

Accomplishments include writing and placing op-eds in top media outlets such as the New York Times, Miami Herald, and Politico; playing a strategic role establishing the Congressman as a leader on campaign finance reform; and writing floor speeches that landed soundbites in top media outlets, from the Associated Press to the Daily Show's "Moment of Zen."

#### Ted Deutch for Congress

Deputy Campaign Manager

October 2009 - April 2010 (7 months)

Boca Raton, Florida

Debate preparation, speechwriting, email and fundraising messaging, general operations

#### US House of Representatives

Press Secretary, Congressman Robert Wexler (D-FL)

May 2007 - November 2009 (2 years 7 months)

Managed press operations for media friendly House Democrat & top surrogate for Obama campaign. Organized press conferences, booked interviews with top television outlets, wrote and placed op-eds, developed talking points and messaging material during tumultuous health care debate of 2009.

#### Obama for America

Constituency Press Secretary in FL

September 2008 - November 2008 (3 months)

Coordinated messaging events with regional press staff, pitched and staffed events, and drafted briefings for national surrogates including Governor Bill Richardson and Majority Whip James Clyburn.

#### American University Student Government

President

April 2006 - April 2007 (1 year 1 month)

Elected student body president at most politically active college in America. Successfully lobbied administration for 24 hour library service, condom machines in the residence halls, and more efficient shuttle service. Worked with Board of Trustees for university's presidential search.

#### FieldWorks

Political Intern

September 2005 - April 2006 (8 months)

Assisted partners at Democratic field strategies firm with organizing canvasses, developing advertisement materials for firm's services, conducting political research, and more.

## Apple

### Campus Representative

May 2005 - April 2006 (1 year)

Washington, DC

As a campus representative for Apple for Education, I used viral marketing techniques to boost Apple brand awareness at American University and represented Apple at campus events. I also led workshops for faculty, students, and staff on Apple software.

## Legal Momentum (formerly NOW Legal Defense Fund)

### Everett Public Service Intern

May 2005 - August 2005 (4 months)

Researched legislation on women's issues such as health care, early childhood education, and domestic violence. Represented organization on Capitol Hill and at coalition meetings.

## Senator Frank Lautenberg

### Appropriations Intern

January 2004 - May 2004 (5 months)

Created database of New Jersey defense spending requests for legislative aid to Senator Lautenberg for the appropriations process. Provided general support to office by answering phones, sorting mail, writing letters, and giving constituent tours.

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## Education

### The Johns Hopkins University

Master of Arts (M.A.), Communication · (2015 - 2016)

### American University

BA, Political Science, Philosophy · (2003 - 2007)