

## Contact

[www.linkedin.com/in/damonysmith](http://www.linkedin.com/in/damonysmith)  
(LinkedIn)  
[www.hud.gov](http://www.hud.gov) (Company)

## Top Skills

Management  
Research  
Leadership

## Honors-Awards

Secretary's Meritorious Service Award  
Eagle Award for Outstanding Partnership  
General Counsel Award for Distinguished Service  
New Professor of the Year Award  
Faculty Fellowship

## Publications

New Cybersecurity Regulations for Financial Institutions  
Participatory Planning and Procedural Protection: The Case for Deeper Public Participation in Urban Redevelopment  
Buchanan v. Warley and the Struggle for Civil Rights  
HUD's Multifamily Rental Project Closing Documents: Modernizing FHA Multifamily Financing

# Damon Smith

General Counsel @ U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development | Law, Real Estate  
Washington, District of Columbia, United States

## Summary

As the General Counsel of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), I oversee the legal affairs of the agency and provide strategic guidance on regulatory and compliance matters related to housing, development and consumer finance laws. I have more than 20 years of experience in these fields, spanning across public, private, and academic sectors.

My mission is to ensure that HUD's policies and programs are consistent with the law and aligned with the agency's goals of advancing fair housing, expanding homeownership, and supporting community development. I leverage my skills and knowledge in public policy, property law, and real estate to advise the Secretary, the senior leadership, and the staff on complex and emerging issues. I also collaborate with other federal agencies, state and local governments, industry stakeholders, and non-profit organizations to foster partnerships and promote best practices.

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## Experience

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
General Counsel  
January 2021 - Present (2 years 9 months)  
Washington DC-Baltimore Area

Credit Union National Association  
Senior Director of Advocacy and Counsel  
August 2020 - January 2021 (6 months)  
Washington DC-Baltimore Area

Responsible for CUNA's regulatory and legal advocacy on issues relating to housing policy and finance, telecommunications and anti-money laundering regulations.

Jenner & Block

## Partner

November 2014 - August 2020 (5 years 10 months)

Counsel corporations on complex matters involving compliance, government regulation and enforcement. Representative billable work includes: developing analytics for internal compliance review of bank processes; cataloging state mortgage requirements for a start-up online residential mortgage lender; reviewing consumer protection compliance protocols for a credit card issuer; advising multifamily housing developers and owners regarding HUD requirements; and negotiating settlement documentation with 25 state attorneys general. Substantial pro bono activities, including service as primary outside corporate counsel to national and local non-profits, and as Board member for Preservation of Affordable Housing, Inc..

## U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

5 years 2 months

### Acting General Counsel

January 2014 - July 2014 (7 months)

Provided legal and policy guidance to HUD Secretary, Deputy Secretary and Assistant Secretaries on a range of programs and activities, including priority Administration initiatives for the Federal Housing Administration (FHA), Community Planning and Development and Public and Indian Housing offices. Managed a \$94 million budget for 375 attorneys and 150 support staff located in Washington D.C. and 45 field offices across the country. Set and implemented the Department's litigation strategy and regulatory agenda in consultation with the Department of Justice and Office of Management and Budget. Provided leadership for FHA origination and consumer relief settlement negotiations in conjunction with the Department of Justice.

### Senior Counsel/Principal Deputy General Counsel

February 2012 - January 2014 (2 years)

Provided legal and policy guidance to the General Counsel and Secretary on a range of programs and activities. Served as co-chair of the National Mortgage Settlement (NMS) Monitoring Committee, which included representatives from the Department of Justice and 14 state attorneys general. Led consumer relief settlement negotiations, in conjunction with the Department of Justice, for settlements with multinational financial services institutions.

### Acting Associate General Counsel for Insured Housing

August 2011 - February 2012 (7 months)

Managed an office of 23 attorneys who provide legal counsel to FHA. Led significant personnel and policy changes including modernizing project

management and performance evaluation functions. Assisted the Secretary and General Counsel in representing the Department in the \$25 billion NMS settlement negotiations with the five largest mortgage servicers.

#### Special Assistant to the General Counsel

June 2009 - August 2011 (2 years 3 months)

Served as liaison to the Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission and assisted senior HUD officials and former HUD Secretaries with their interviews and testimony. Led the first successful regulatory and contract reform effort for FHA's Multifamily closing documents in more than 30 years. Assisted in the implementation of provisions of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.

#### Rutgers School of Law

Assistant/Associate Professor

July 2005 - June 2009 (4 years)

Camden, New Jersey

Developed curricula for and taught courses in Property Law, Local Government Law and an Advanced Property and Race seminar. Visitor at American University Washington College of Law, spring 2009. Served on the Lawyering Programs Committee and the Chancellor's Advisory Group on Civic Engagement. Promoted to Associate Professor in 2009.

#### Arnold & Porter

Associate

September 2002 - July 2005 (2 years 11 months)

Associate in the Real Estate Practice Group – Assisted clients with a variety of real estate issues, including: negotiating office and retail leases for commercial building tenants; representing purchasers in office building and hotel transactions; closing a tax increment financing agreement between a hotel client and the District of Columbia; assisting in a corporate restructuring for a real estate joint venture; advising clients on tax implications of certain real estate transactions; advising a mental health hospital on land use and zoning issues and gaining approval of a planned unit development application; and serving as pro bono counsel for nonprofit housing clients on a range of affordable housing acquisition, development and litigation issues.

#### International Honors Program

Instructor

January 2004 - May 2004 (5 months)

Developed curricula and taught Urban Planning and Urban Ecology courses focused on building sustainable cities in the developing world. Instructed and supervised approximately 30 college students in New York, NY; Mumbai, India; Johannesburg/Cape Town, South Africa; Rio de Janeiro/Curitiba, Brazil; and Washington, DC.

#### Arnold & Porter

##### Summer Associate

May 2001 - August 2001 (4 months)

Conducted research and wrote legal memoranda for real estate transactional and pro bono litigation matters. Researched the tax implications of non-profit/for-profit affordable housing joint ventures. Assisted in the successful appeal of an adverse decision under the USDA Black Farmers Settlement, including conducting client interviews and drafting the appeal and supporting affidavits.

#### Southern Poverty Law Center

##### Legal Intern

June 2000 - August 2000 (3 months)

Assisted in fair housing negotiations between a local housing authority and residents. Tasks included conducting client interviews, drafting affidavits and developing legal and community mobilization strategies. Researched cases and wrote memoranda involving voting rights, Title VI, the Eighth Amendment and lawsuits against the Ku Klux Klan.

#### Harris-Stowe State University

##### Adjunct Professor

June 1999 - August 1999 (3 months)

Developed a curriculum for and taught a course on local economic development. Provided instruction in economic theory and contemporary economic development initiatives, including Empowerment Zones, asset-based development, low-income housing tax credits and faith-based community development.

#### Greater St. Louis Regional Empowerment Zone

##### Research Associate

June 1999 - August 1999 (3 months)

Assisted in the establishment of the Board of Directors for a newly designated

Empowerment Zone. Led a strategic planning initiative and developed alternative budget analyses.

### International Honors Program

Instructor

January 1999 - May 1999 (5 months)

Developed curricula and taught Urban Planning and Urban Ecology courses focused on building sustainable cities in the developing world. Instructed and supervised approximately 30 college students in New York, NY; Mumbai, India; Johannesburg/Cape Town, South Africa; Rio de Janeiro/Curitiba, Brazil; and Washington, DC.

### University of Illinois - Neighborhood Technical Assistance Center

Director

August 1996 - January 1999 (2 years 6 months)

East St. Louis, IL

Established an East St. Louis-based planning and design assistance center for University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Provided assistance to residents, business owners, citizen groups, faith-based organizations and municipal agencies to develop their capacity for organizing, planning, building and urban design, business development, non-profit management and grant writing. Assisted over forty organizations on projects ranging from neighborhood beautification efforts to new housing construction. Managed a \$500,000 budget and the work of a professional staff including 3 full-time project associates, 1 summer intern and 2 research assistants.

### State of Illinois East St. Louis Financial Advisory Authority

Research Associate

August 1995 - August 1996 (1 year 1 month)

East St. Louis, IL

Provided oversight for municipal agencies to ensure compliance with federal and state statutes and regulations and local ordinances. Reviewed Tax Increment Financing, Community Development Block Grant and Public Works plans to ensure the community and economic development goals were met. Developed Geographic Information System capabilities in city government. Wrote research reports on demographic changes, tax increment financing, capital improvement and flood control projects.

## Education

Harvard Law School

Doctor of Law (J.D.), Law · (1999 - 2002)

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Master's degree, Urban Planning · (1994 - 1995)

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Bachelor of Arts (B.A.), English · (1989 - 1993)