

## PAUL R. RODRÍGUEZ

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### EXPERIENCE

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**Division of Consumer Affairs, Office of the Attorney General, Newark, NJ**

**Director**

June 2018 – Present<sup>1</sup>

- Head of the State’s consumer protection agency, and primary state regulator of:
  - Health care licensees and the majority of licensed professions and occupations.
  - One of the strongest consumer fraud acts in the country;
  - The securities industry, charities, and weights and measures.
- Lead staff of over 500 engaged in rulemaking, licensing, civil investigations and enforcement, and administer budget of over \$28 million.
- License or register, promulgate rules for, and investigate conduct of over 720,000 licensees across nearly 200 license types, 60,000 businesses, and 30,000 charities.
- Extremely engaged in the Governor’s whole-of-State response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including by initiating emergency programs to significantly expand the healthcare workforce, expand scope of practice, eliminate barriers to telehealth, impose strict workplace safety standards, expand funerary capacity, prepare for an unprecedented vaccination program, and aggressively pursue price gouging and purveyors of false treatments and unauthorized tests.
- Multi-pronged approach to tackling opioid epidemic, from suing opioid manufacturers, revoking the licenses of indiscriminate prescribers, promulgating regulations to reduce inappropriate financial incentives and promote responsible prescribing, revamp technology platforms to assist prescribers on the frontlines, and running a consumer take-back program.
- Engaged in significant rulemaking efforts to establish a fiduciary duty for broker-dealers, eliminate barriers to women’s health, combat the opioid epidemic, and over two dozen emergency orders related to the pandemic.
- Shifted agency’s focus away from a complaint/resolution model towards broader, complex investigations with the greatest potential to impact industry conduct.
- Utilized consumer fraud act in innovative ways to combat illegal firearm distribution, environmental harm, and predatory price increases related to the current pandemic.
- Initiated several programs aimed at protecting and empowering the most vulnerable populations, including suing a Medicaid advisory company that abandoned its clients, a major student loan servicer that misled borrowers, a series of sham mortgage relief companies and related nonprofits, a lender that provided cash advances to small businesses owners by deceptive means, subprime auto sellers who sold and repossessed the same vehicles multiple times, conducting a statewide sweep of unauthorized immigration service providers, and overhauling professional boards procedures regarding allegations of sexual misconduct.

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<sup>1</sup> Unanimously confirmed by the NJ Senate on 12/17/2020.

**Office of the Mayor, New York, NY**

*Acting Counsel to the Mayor of New York City*

Sept. 2016 – June 2018

*Citywide responsibilities:*

- Served as member of senior management team, counseling and providing strategic guidance on legal, management and policy objectives for a City with an annual budget of \$80 billion and a workforce of over 300,000 employees.
- Advised on matters related to executive power, governance, equity, economic development, law enforcement, emergency management, press and communications, public integrity, and transparency.
- Reviewed and approved major policy proposals prior to presentation to the Mayor. Worked closely with cabinet to facilitate coordinated review and implementation. Provided conflict resolution and consensus building among stakeholders.
- Reviewed and negotiated text of legislation related to key administration priorities and matters that impinged on executive power.
- Helped create a strategic litigation committee to take new approach to the City's litigation efforts to advance Mayoral priorities and respond to federal attacks on local authority and funding.
- Routinely called upon to manage legal responses to major crises affecting City agencies, including coordinating sensitive interactions with respect to litigation, oversight bodies, and the press.
- Helped coordinate several aspects of the City's human rights, equity and "good government" reform agendas, including diversity in contracting and leadership programs, pay equity, transparency, and expansions to the Human Rights Law.
- Screen, interview and recommended candidates for judicial appointments.

*Agency Responsibilities*

- Served as general counsel to 1,200 person Office of the Mayor, providing counsel, direction and compliance on general operations, ethics, contracts, litigation, risk management, labor and employment, and payroll and benefits issues.
- Managed staff within the Counsel's Office, nearly a dozen general counsel of various units, and oversaw the City Commission on Human Rights and its 120 lawyers and 50 non-legal staff.
- Conducted internal investigations and acted as primary liaison with ethics regulators.
- Instituted top-to-bottom legal review of policies and procedures to ensure compliance and best practices, overhauling review and approval processes, training, and financial compliance.

*Deputy Counsel to the Mayor*

Jan. 2016 – Sept. 2016

- Focus on ethics, criminal justice, economic development, and minority-owned business program.

**Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP, New York, NY**

*Associate*

Dec. 2012 – Jan. 2016

- Well-rounded transactional attorney representing both sides of multi-billion dollar transactions in capital markets, mergers & acquisitions, bank lending and intellectual property.
- Advised clients on corporate structure, board dynamics, and regulatory compliance.

**Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A**, Brooklyn, NY June 2014 – Nov. 2014  
*Extern, Community and Economic Development Unit*

- Represented nonprofits dedicated to serving low-income New Yorkers.
- Advised on board governance, tax exemption, construction, development and compliance.

**New York University School of Law**, New York, NY Sept. 2011 – May 2012  
*Law & Social Enterprise Fellow*

- Academic research in emerging field at intersection of nonprofit and corporate law, including topics such as microlending, social impact bonds, and community banking.

**U.S. Senator Frank R. Lautenberg**, Newark, NJ Spring 2004 – Fall 2008  
*Projects Specialist, Senior Staff*

- Specialized in transportation, infrastructure, labor and homeland security.
- Led outreach to Latino & LGBT communities.

*Constituent Services Representative*

- Coordinated response to constituent concerns related to housing and social service needs.

## EDUCATION

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**Yale Law School**, J.D., June 2011

Activities: Yale Law Social Entrepreneurs, Chair  
Yale Law & Business Society, Outreach Chair  
Latino Law Students Association, National Conference Committee  
Yale Human Rights and Development Law Journal, Executive Editor of Production  
Community and Economic Development Clinic  
Iraqi Refugee Assistance Project, inaugural class

**Montclair State University**, B.A. Political Science, May 2006

Honors: *summa cum laude*, Honors Program, Dean's Advisory Panel  
Activities: Worked full-time for U.S. Senator during the day while studying full-time at night

## FELLOWSHIPS, RECOGNITIONS, BOARD SERVICE

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Make the Road NJ 2020 Honoree	2020
NJ Food Council Thomas W. Kelly Government Service Award	2019
Mayor's Advisory Committee on the Judiciary	2016 – 2018
NYC Procurement Policy Board	2016 – 2018
Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights, Young Lawyers' Committee	2014 – 2016
Pro Bono Service Award, Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A	2014
Council of Urban Professionals, Fellow	2014

**LANGUAGES** Fluent in **SPANISH**, proficient in **PORTUGUESE**.

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