

Mohsin R. Syed

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EXPERIENCE

U.S. House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Washington, DC

Chief Counsel (with TS clearance), January 2019 – Present

- Assist in managing a committee staff of attorneys and policy experts to implement the legislative priorities of Chair Peter DeFazio on all issues pertaining to transportation, infrastructure, federal emergency management, and public buildings.
- Strategize with and provide policy counsel to committee staff in developing and moving legislation through the committee, House Floor, and negotiations between the House and Senate.
- Provide counsel to the committee's oversight team, including a lead investigator and two attorneys, in conducting oversight of government agencies and industries within the committee's jurisdiction.
- Advise the Chair and committee staff on all rules and parliamentary procedures pertaining to legislation considered in committee and on the House Floor.
- Direct committee staff during House Floor consideration of committee-related legislation in coordination with House Leadership.

U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, Washington, DC

Staff Director (with TS clearance), Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security, July 2016 – January 2019

- Advised Ranking Member Bill Nelson, Democratic committee members, and Democratic caucus on all issues pertaining to aviation consumer protection, operations, safety, and security.
- Managed subcommittee staff in providing policy counsel, developing legislative strategy, and drafting and negotiating bipartisan legislation on aviation-related matters, including the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Reauthorization Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-254) – a five-year reauthorization of the FAA and three-year reauthorization of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA).
- Directed committee oversight of the aviation industry through committee hearings and engagement with the FAA, TSA, and relevant stakeholders.

Office of U.S. Senator Bill Nelson, Washington, DC

Legislative Counsel, October 2014 – July 2016; February 2018 – March 2018

- Advised the Senator on all issues pertaining to judiciary, immigration, and child welfare.
- Managed the Senator's bipartisan process for recommending individuals to the White House for federal district court and U.S. Attorney vacancies in Florida.
- Led the Senator's legislative efforts in response to two mass shootings in Florida – Pulse nightclub in Orlando and Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland.
- Assisted Senate Commerce Committee in drafting and negotiating the Senate-passed FAA Reauthorization Act of 2016 and FAA Extension, Safety, and Security Act of 2016 (P.L. 114-190).

U.S. Department of Transportation, Washington, DC

Attorney-Advisor (with Secret clearance), October 2011 – October 2014

Legislative Fellow to U.S. Senator Brian Schatz, February 2014 – August 2014

- Detailed from the Department to provide legislative and policy counsel for the Senator's priorities in the areas of aviation, surface transportation, and homeland security.

Office of the General Counsel, Operations

- Provided legal counsel to the Essential Air Service (EAS) program, including reviewing program orders, drafting responses to congressional requests, and facilitating a working group on enforcing statutory requirements and improving the program's administration.
- Provided legal counsel to a working group seeking to establish a medical countermeasures program to distribute antibiotics to personnel during a biological attack.
- Coordinated on privacy and security-related legal issues pertaining to the domestic use of unmanned aircraft systems.

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- Served as the Department's legal contact for a White House-led interagency working group to improve chemical facility safety and security.
- Ensured regulatory compliance of documents containing Sensitive Security Information (SSI).

Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP, Washington, DC

Associate, January 2011 – October 2011

- Represented aerospace, defense, financial, industrial, and technology clients on internal investigations and compliance matters related to the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, export control and antiboycott laws and regulations, and U.S.-administered sanctions programs.

Arnold & Porter LLP, Washington, DC

Associate, September 2008 – December 2010; Summer Associate, 2007

- Represented corporate clients on commercial and white collar litigation matters involving the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, antitrust, and patent legal issues.

Defense Intelligence Agency, Washington, DC

Intelligence Officer (with TS/SCI clearance), July 2003 – July 2005

- Monitored, analyzed, and presented intelligence collected on transnational terrorist organization activities in Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Central Asia to senior officials, deployed personnel, and the greater intelligence community as part of the Joint Intelligence Task Force – Combating Terrorism (JITF-CT).
- Served for one year as a CENTCOM Desk Watch Officer responsible for monitoring and sending all-source terrorism reporting while providing initial assessments and warnings of imminent threats to deployed personnel as part of 24-hour Warning and Fusion Center.
- Awarded JITF-CT Challenge Coin for distinguished service as an all-source analyst assessing terrorist trends in Iraq and twice recognized for outstanding contributions to defense intelligence.

Federal Trade Commission, Washington, DC

Honors Paralegal for Bureau of Competition, July 2002 – July 2003

- Assisted attorneys on antitrust cases, including conducting telephone interviews of potential witnesses, drafting interview reports, and reviewing documents requested through discovery.

EDUCATION

University of Virginia School of Law

J.D., May 2008

Member of Virginia State Bar (2008) and District of Columbia Bar (2009)

Interned at U.S. Department of Justice, Counterterrorism Section with TS/SCI clearance (summer of 2006)

University of Virginia

B.A., Foreign Affairs and History, May 2002

Interned at the White House Office of Public Liaison (summer of 2000)