

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY, WASHINGTON, DC

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Congressional Affairs (Senate)

Feb. 2022-PRESENT

Responsible for coordination and management of all congressional matters involving the U.S. Senate, including management of strategies and relationships between the Department and the White House Office of Legislative Affairs. Ensure effective Departmental communications and coordination with Members of Congress on matters including legislative proposals, funding applications and awards, hearings, matters of oversight, and requests for information. Develop guidance and make recommendations on legislative proposals and strategy involving the Office of the Secretary and the Operating Administrations. Manage the confirmation process and strategy for the Department's nominees and provide preparation to Departmental officials before Senate hearings and meetings.

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY WASHINGTON COLLEGE OF LAW, WASHINGTON, DC

2014-PRESENT

Adjunct Professor

Teach skills-based Pre-trial Civil Litigation course to senior law students, with a focus on development of trial skills and practical elements of pre-trial litigation. Provide training and instruction in conducting case assessment and preparation, interviews and depositions, and development of written work product including complaints, answers, interrogatories, requests for production, and motions. Facilitate individual development and teamwork through formal and informal litigation exercises and discussions.

U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION, WASHINGTON, DC

Senior Counsel & Staff Director, Surface Transportation Subcommittee

2019-2022

Acting Deputy Staff Director, Full Committee

Oct. 2021-Feb. 2022

Led Surface Transportation Subcommittee responsible for oversight of surface transportation programs and activities at the Department of Transportation, National Transportation Safety Board, Surface Transportation Board, and Transportation Security Administration. Managed team of professional staff responsible for drafting and negotiating legislation, preparing for and conducting hearings on transportation nominees and agency oversight, briefing Chair and Committee members on transportation issues, managing stakeholder relationships, and pursuing key objectives and priorities for Senate Democrats. Led drafting and negotiation of Surface Transportation Investment Act of 2021 (S.2016) authorizing \$78 billion for Department of Transportation programs (included in Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, P.L.117-58); negotiated PIPES Act of 2020 following Committee markup (P.L. 116-260). From October 2021 to February 2022, was responsible for managing day-to-day activities of Commerce Committee in consultation with Staff Director, including managing hearing calendar, review of all Committee materials for use by member offices, and strategic planning and coordination of Committee priorities.

Kara L. Fischer

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NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION, WASHINGTON, DC
Senior Trial Attorney and Policy Advisor

2015-2019

Served as NHTSA point person and provided strategic support, planning, and execution for some of the Agency's most high-profile and complex matters, including oversight of recall of 52 million Takata airbags, reorganization of NHTSA's Office of Defects Investigation (ODI), and implementation of programs and procedures to address Office of Inspector General recommendations resulting in \$280 million in additional appropriations. Collaborated with individuals and offices across the Agency to coordinate strategy, communications, Congressional outreach, and public-facing activities to advance Agency and Departmental priorities, including negotiating 2016 Proactive Safety Principles agreement with eighteen of the top light-vehicle automotive manufacturers, serving as one of three United States representatives in trade discussions with Cambodia regarding automotive imports, and managing public-private partnership data sharing initiative on real-world performance of advanced driving technologies. Provided legal advice, counsel, and training to executive leadership and client offices on policy and practical matters, including issues pertaining to personnel management, collective bargaining, FOIA, privacy, enforcement investigations, internal controls and compliance, and matters of first impression.

JOSEPH, GREENWALD & LAAKE, P.A., GREENBELT, MD
Associate Attorney

2011-2015

Maintained robust practice in civil and criminal litigation in state and federal court. Responsible for all aspects of pre-trial, trial, and post-trial litigation, including discovery management, depositions, mediation/settlement, plea negotiations, motions practice, lay and expert witness management, trial preparation and execution, and general litigation and trial team management. Successfully tried numerous jury and bench trials, including multimillion dollar award by Prince George's County jury in civil rights case (*Harper v. State*, October 2012). Managed average case load of 70 cases (civil and criminal) with minimal supervision. Publications include National Business Institute seminar materials regarding medical malpractice damages, Medicare super liens, subrogation, and use of expert witnesses in litigation.

Maintained robust practice in civil and criminal litigation in state and federal court. Responsible for all aspects of pre-trial, trial, and post-trial litigation, including discovery management, depositions, mediation/settlement, plea negotiations, motions practice, lay and expert witness management, trial preparation and execution, and general litigation and trial team management. Successfully tried numerous jury and bench trials, including \$5.7 million dollar award by in civil rights case (*Harper v. State*, October 2012). Managed individual case load of approximately 60 – 70 cases with minimal supervision. Publications include National Business Institute seminar materials regarding medical malpractice damages, Medicare super liens, subrogation, and use of expert witnesses in litigation.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT, ROCKVILLE, MD
Law Clerk to the Honorable Steven G. Salant

2010-2011

Assisted Judge in drafting opinions and conducted legal research for family, civil, juvenile, and criminal cases. Prepared cases and pending motions for judicial review prior to oral argument. Observed and ran all aspects of bench and jury trials and motions hearings. Monitored cases and motions for compliance with applicable rules and court procedures.

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EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

EDUCATION

JURIS DOCTOR, CUM LAUDE 2010

American University Washington College of Law, Washington, DC

MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, MAGNA CUM LAUDE 2007

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE, SUMMA CUM LAUDE 2006

York College of Pennsylvania, York, PA

BAR ADMISSIONS & ASSOCIATIONS

Maryland, District of Columbia

U.S. District Court of Maryland

United States Supreme Court

Maryland State Bar Association

District of Columbia Bar Association

HONORS & AWARDS

- Kevin E. Quinlan Award for Excellence in Traffic Safety 2021
- Gears of Government President's Award 2019
- Partnership For Public Service Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medals Nominee 2019
- NHTSA Administrator Awards: Diversity Accomplishment Award 2019; Superior Achievement Team Award 2018, 2016
- Department of Transportation Bronze Award 2017
- NHTSA Five-Star Performer Award 2017
- Department of Transportation Secretary's Partnering for Excellence Award 2016
- Maryland & District of Columbia Super Lawyers "Rising Star" (civil litigation) 2015