

JENNIFER VAN DER HEIDE ESCOBAR, Esq.

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Highly effective leader, legislative strategist, and legal and political advocate with over twenty-five years of federal, state and local experience. Results-oriented, dynamic manager with demonstrated ability to maximize diverse talent. Proven success in building diverse coalitions for policy and political campaigns, developing legislative strategy, and managing communications outreach to effectively influence public opinion. Broad policy knowledge and quick, analytical skills. Extensive involvement and mentorship in minority and women's leadership development. Positive, creative and collaborative team-builder focused on successful, meaningful outcomes in fast-paced, high-stakes environment

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Representative Deb Haaland (NM-01), US House of Representatives

Washington, DC

Chief of Staff

January 2019 to present

- Crafted, promoted and executed results-oriented, comprehensive strategy to deliver on legislative priorities and provide excellent constituent services, in collaboration with New Mexico, Tribal and national stakeholders, successfully advancing policy priorities, in and outside of member's committee jurisdiction (House Armed Services and House Natural Resources Committee).
- Effectively managed over 20 staff and \$1.4 million budget for member GovTrack ranked as the "Top Leader" of the freshman class; introduced the 2nd most bills in the freshman class while attracting the most bipartisan cosponsors. Had four bills signed into law and components of several others were enacted.
- Led effective strategy for member to win elections for Freshman Representative to Steering and Policy, Co-Chair of Congressional Native American Caucus; Vice Chair of Democratic Women's Caucus; Congressional Progressive Caucus Deputy Whip; Regional Whip; Chair of the National Parks, Forests and Public Lands Subcommittee; Vice Chair of the House Natural Resources Committee; and for a waiver onto the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee.
- Set-up office for one of the first two Native American members of Congress. Hit the ground running on Day 1 with full staff, fellows and interns.

Deb Haaland for Congress (NM-01)

Senior Advisor

Washington DC and Albuquerque, NM

August 2017 - November 2018

Provided strategic guidance on all aspects of campaign in competitive six-way primary, and then in general election. Led outreach to Members of Congress, Tribal Nations, and all national stakeholder groups. Drafted legislative questionnaires, speeches and website content. Assisted with debate prep.

Hoopa Valley Tribe

Director, Washington Office

Washington, DC

June 2017 - December 2018

On-Reservation Tribal Attorney, Hoopa, CA

Spring 1997 - Fall 1998

Lead congressional strategy and outreach on a diverse set of federal policy priorities including water and fishing rights, economic development, law enforcement and tribal sovereignty for a small, economically challenged tribe. Interfaced with federal agencies to ensure full respect of tribal trust responsibility. Drafted letters, attended meetings and arranged tribal visits. Participated in national tribal Self-Governance meetings.

The Faith and Politics Institute

Chief Program and Public Affairs Officer

Washington, DC

March – May 2017

Led strategic development of an historic, bipartisan American Experience pilgrimage to California focusing on the immigrant, civil rights, cultural and faith experiences of the Asian American community. Developed comprehensive and creative program, led outreach to Members of Congress and Asian American community, academic, faith and political leaders. Drafted content for the three-day 150 participant pilgrimage with dozens of Members of Congress, civil rights luminaries, business leaders and security personnel. Three-month contract position.

Representative Keith Ellison for Democratic National Committee Chair

Washington, DC

Senior Advisor

January – February 2017

Managed Congressional outreach and whip operations, drafted constituency plans and letters, lobbied voting delegates, and managed regional boiler room operations in competitive national election.

Representative Michael Honda (D-Silicon Valley), U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC

Chief of Staff

January 2001 - January 2017

Strategy and Leadership

- Served as lead counsel and strategist to senior member of the Appropriations Committee, Ranking Member of Commerce, Justice and Science Subcommittee; former member of Science and Technology, Transportation, and Budget Committees, the Labor, Health, Human Services and Education Appropriations Subcommittee, and Vice Chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus.
- Represented member at high-level meetings and built critical relationships for member, nationally and in Silicon Valley. Led external engagement with a variety of public policy stakeholders.
- Led strategy and navigated member to 'exclusive' committee assignment and Caucus leadership positions.
- Worked closely with civil rights, labor and other national stakeholders to move progressive agenda. Institutionalized the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus by revising bylaws, creating staff positions, and promoting legislative agenda during Rep. Honda's chairmanship (2004-2011).
- Developed strategic and impactful coalitions with the California delegation, the Congressional Asian, Hispanic and Black Caucuses, and the Equality Caucus.

Legislative Expertise

- Crafted, promoted and executed results-oriented, comprehensive strategy to deliver on legislative priorities and provide excellent constituent services, in collaboration with Silicon Valley and national stakeholders; including finding ways to advance policy priorities, in and outside of member's committee jurisdiction.
- Managed strategy to secure over \$1.3 billion in federal funding for the district, and to bring the US Patent and Trademark Office to Silicon Valley, working with local community, labor, business leaders and universities.
- Directed appropriation to create the Equity and Excellence in Education Commission, bringing together top national experts to author transformative recommendations, including the first federal call for universal pre-K.
- Coordinated decade-long effort to secure \$900 million to extend Bart Area Rapid Transit into Silicon Valley.
- Worked with local law enforcement, the FBI and Justice Department to secure \$130 million increase to clear backlog of DNA rape kits and promote the adoption of new Rapid DNA technology.
- Led FY17 bipartisan effort to increase Native American crime victim funding by over \$130 million.
- Managed member's creation and chairmanship of the bipartisan Foreign Direct Investment Caucus, Congressional Anti-Bully Caucus, bipartisan Hepatitis Caucus, Ethiopia Caucus and the Transgender Task Force.

Management

- Managed diverse staff of 25 and budget of \$1.4 million to support operations of Washington, DC, and Silicon Valley offices. Recruited over 40 professional education and science and tech fellows.
- Designed and oversaw complex constituent communications programs with unprecedented volume of mail.
- Inspired and guided premier online communications strategy, including multilingual ethnic messaging; robust, innovative social media program; and creation and development of best website in Congress

ADDITIONAL POLITICAL EXPERIENCE

Campaign Manager, Mike Honda for Congress in 2000 (a top national Red to Blue battleground race). Managed staff of 15+, \$2.5 million budget, and hundreds of volunteers. Cultivated diverse stakeholder relationships with elected, progressive, business and community leaders. Helped develop all message, field, fundraising and media strategies. Won by over 12 points. Managed re-election campaigns in 2002-2012.

Political Director, Democratic National Committee Vice-Chair Honda. Designed and supported member's surrogate travel program to over 35 states to increase voter engagement and elect Democrats. Fostered key party relationships for member. Developed and executed decade-long effort to increase political participation and representation by Asian Americans, New Americans and other under-represented communities. Advocated for innovative, diversity programs at the DNC, DCCC and DNCC (2003-2012).

CA campaigns: CA Assembly Field Director; County Democratic Coordinated Campaign Manager; City Council Field Director; County Supervisor Manager.

Voter Protection Attorney, Volunteer – Democratic Presidential campaigns (2004, 2008, 2012 and 2016).

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Practicing attorney for nearly five years as Tribal Counsel (**California Indian Legal Services** and **Hoopa Valley Tribe**), in private boutique practice (**Greenberg & Simon**), and criminal defense (**Law Offices of Louis Katz**). Wrote motions, pleadings and appellate briefs; managed discovery process; took depositions and witness statements; appeared in federal, state and tribal courts; drafted tribal ordinances, regulations and contracts; and lobbied federal government on water and fishing rights. Practice areas included employment discrimination, criminal defense, tort claims, property rights, tribal gaming, business and contract law, environmental and cultural resource preservation, and Indian Child Welfare Act.

EDUCATION

University of California, Hastings College of the Law

San Francisco, CA

Juris Doctor with Public Interest Law Certification; Dean’s Scholar; Newhouse Scholar
Member, California State Bar

Tufts University

Medford, MA

Bachelor of Arts in International Relations; focus on the status of women in developing countries

OTHER LEADERSHIP

- Advisory Board Member, Bossed Up, women’s workplace empowerment initiative (2016 - 2018)
- Fellow, Congressional European Parliamentary Initiative, focused on refugee and security issues (2016)
- Senior Fellow, Stennis Center for Bipartisan Public Service Leadership (2015)
- Fellow, Women’s Executive Leadership Program (2015)
- Bipartisan CODEL Participant: Ethiopia, Israel, Haiti, Nicaragua, Colombia, China, Germany and Belgium
- Featured Speaker, PLEN, Preparing Women to Lead (2008, 2009, 2019) and #CareerCrush Q&A (2016)