

# Lauren Oppenheimer

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## PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Passionate policy professional with fifteen years of legislative experience working across the aisle on Capitol Hill and at a centrist think tank. Deep understanding of the legislative process in the Senate and House on a wide array of legislative issues. Proven ability to work with diverse coalitions and cultivating and maintaining strong relationships with other bipartisan senior level staff, relevant committee staff, constituents, stakeholders and industry groups, to craft sensible policy while ensuring the voiceless also have a seat at the table with a focus on making banking, housing, consumer protection, and trade policies more equitable.

## EXPERIENCE

### **OFFICE OF SENATOR DOUG JONES (Alabama)**

*Senior Economic Policy Adviser*

January 2020 – January 2021

- Managed Senator's work on the Senate Banking Committee and economic policy issues in response to Coronavirus relief for small businesses with Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL), unemployment, stimulus checks, postal service, state and local funds, housing;
- Drafted talking points, questions, and background for Senate Banking Committee hearings, including hearings with the Federal Reserve, the SEC, other federal financial regulators, and on legislative issues such as nonbank financial regulation, corporate governance, anti-money laundering, and housing finance reform;
- Mentored junior colleagues and successfully collaborate with offices on both sides of the aisle to develop legislative solutions and policy initiatives, and work with advocates to advance the Senator's priorities.

#### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

- **Passed into law: Paycheck Security Act, provided businesses and non-profits resources through the pandemic, ILLICIT CASH Act, modernized anti-money laundering laws, Eviction Moratorium during the coronavirus pandemic, and Technical Correction to Tax Cuts and Jobs Act for small businesses' Qualified Investment Property (QIP).**
- **Drafted legislation: Invest in minority communities through bolstering of Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) and Minority Depository Institutions (MDIs),**
- **Retool health care manufacturing by incentivizing PPE production in the U.S.,**
- **Reduce barriers to employment with the Fair Hiring in Banking Act and Make housing more affordable with the Dream Down Payment Act, Address radon in Huntsville public housing,**
- **Lead letter to the CFPB Inspector General for the watering down of the CFPB's payday lending.**

### **OFFICE OF SENATOR JEFF MERKLEY (Oregon)**

*Senior Economic Policy Adviser*

January 2017 – December 2019

- Coordinated with banking and securities regulators on Volcker Rule, Crowdfunding, and Payday Lending, Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) on Cannabis Banking/SAFE Banking Act;
- Primary economic adviser to Ranking Member of the Foreign Relation's Subcommittee on Multilateral Institutions and International Economic Policy and the Congressional Executive Commission on China;
- Advised the Senator on the economic portfolio on Banking, Securities, Insurance, Taxes, and Trade;
- Compelled Sen. Merkley to take 2018 trip to U.S.-Mexican border to investigate Trump's child separation policy. After being turned away from a Brownsville, Texas children's detention center, it set off a national firestorm when the video went viral. Sen. Merkley pressured to formally end their cruel policy.

#### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

- **Launched the Senate Working Group on Cannabis and drafted the SAFE Banking Act,**
- **Counseled on issues related to Ethics/Ban Conflicted Trading Act, Telecom/STOP Robocalls Act, Election Reform/We the People Act,**
- **Judiciary Nominations of Justice Kavanaugh, Ryan Bounds, and Thomas Farr.**

### *Minority Staff Director Senate Banking Subcommittee/Legislative Assistant* March 2015 –January 2017

- Lead Democratic staffer for the Senate Banking Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Protection and prepared Senator Merkley and subcommittee members for hearings and legislative markups;
- Monitored emerging consumer protection risks, scope and analyzed possible concerns, identified potential impacts, and recommend options for appropriate policy responses;
- Liaised with Banking and Budget Committees, federal and state bank regulatory agencies, government agencies, trade associations, consumer groups, and private and public institutions on consumer compliance.

## **THIRD WAY**

### ***Deputy Director Economic Program/ Capital Markets Initiative (CMI)***

**April 2011 – February 2015**

- Conceived and launched initiative making financial policy accessible for policymakers' nuanced debates;
- Engaged in strategic planning for CMI, policy coordination with Capitol Hill and internal departments across organizational boundaries and outreach efforts with Advisory Group and Third Way's Board;
- Established Capital Markets 101 Speaker Series, with speakers like former Federal Reserve Chair Paul Volcker, former FDIC Chair Sheila Bair, *The Wall Street Journal's* David Wessel and *The Economist's* Greg Ip;
- Liaised with Congress, the Obama Administration, think tanks, media outlets, embassies, academic institutions, and financial leaders.

#### **ACCOMPLISHMENT:**

- **Wrote and distributed educational memos, Capital Markets Primer, which were featured in *Politico, ABC News, BBC News, MSNBC, Kogood* and Columbia Business School.**

## **OFFICE OF REPRESENTATIVE PAUL W. HODES (New Hampshire's 2<sup>nd</sup> District)**

### ***Deputy Chief of Staff / Legislative Director***

**March 2007 – January 2011**

- Set up office for the freshman Member and managed day-to-day operations, budget, personnel matters of the six New Hampshire and D.C. offices;
- Furnished strategic legislative advice Financial Services and Oversight Government Reform Committees;
- Supervised and trained staff of ten, assigned legislative responsibilities, oversaw the drafting of the Member's official correspondence, and ensured all constituent, floor, and press requests were met;
- Built and strengthened relationships with New Hampshire constituencies, including financial services institutions, to engage on interests both on and off the Congressman's committees of jurisdiction;
- Developed and implemented legislative plan, managed appropriations process, prepared floor statements, and represented the Congressman in meetings with constituents;

#### **BILLS PASSED IN LAW:**

- **Michelle's Health Care Act,**
- **Northern Border Economic Regional Commission Act,**
- **Wall Street Reform Dodd-Frank Act.**

## **OFFICE OF REPRESENTATIVE MELVIN L. WATT (North Carolina's 12<sup>th</sup> District)**

### ***Financial Services Committee Legislative Assistant***

**May 2005 – March 2007**

- Advised the Congressman and managed legislative portfolio that included the following issues: foreign affairs, trade, securities, insurance, banking, housing, pensions, and taxes;
- Collaborated with staff of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) given Congressman Watt's role as the Chair of the CBC.

#### **ACCOMPLISHMENT:**

- **Negotiated the Mortgage Reform and Anti-Predatory Lending Act**
- **Hurricane Katrina Recovery Act.**

## **NORTH AMERICAN SECURITIES ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION (NASAA)**

### ***Government Affairs Assistant***

**March 2002 – September 2003**

- Prepared reports for federal, state, and provincial securities regulators in U.S., Canada, and Mexico.
- Liaised with staff at the National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG), Conference of State Bank Supervisors (CSBS), the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA), the House Financial Services Committee and Senate Banking Committee during consideration of the Sarbanes-Oxley (SOX) Act.

## **EDUCATION**

**LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS, M.A. in Economic History**

**UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO, B.A. Honors Political Science**

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

National Journal – Named One of 25 Most Influential Washington Women under 35

Women in Housing and Finance – Member

Anti-Defamation League – Glass Leadership Fellow

Jewish Women International – Financial Literacy Committee Member

Congressional Jewish Staffers Association – Member