

Karuna Seshasai

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EXPERIENCE

Deputy General Counsel and Special Assistant, Executive Office of Mayor Muriel Bowser **February 2017 – Present**

- Provide strategic and legal counsel to identify and mitigate political risks, ethical considerations, and conflicts with DC (state and local) and federal laws successfully preempting litigation and navigating challenging optics
- Trusted advisor in the Executive Office, working directly under the General Counsel to counsel the Mayor, Deputy Mayors, Cabinet Officials, and Chiefs of Staff under executive authority on the legal implications and sufficiency of proposed legislative, regulatory, and legal matters
- Advise on novel challenges posed by the COVID-19 public health emergency, including the scope of executive power, emergency statutory and regulatory authority, personnel rights, privacy considerations, and litigation risk; drafted more than 30 executive orders in four months
- Lead discreet and thorough investigations into allegations related to personnel matters or internal compliance with DC statutes and regulations
- Issue legal opinions on mayoral (many similarities with state governors) appointments, delegation of mayoral authority, and other executive orders
- Negotiate agreements amongst executive agencies and DC partners affecting memoranda of understanding, grants, and other contracts with a creative eye towards maximizing existing resources and adaptable legal guidance

Director of Vetting, Hillary for America **March 2015 – November 2016**

- Served as primary decision-maker and advisor to HFA senior staff and decision-makers on all teams including Counsel, Finance, States, Operations, Vice Chair, Digital, Communications, Policy, and Transition
- Conducted political risk analysis on over 40,000 associations to individuals and entities including, but not limited to: employees, vendors, surrogates, digital content, fundraisers, program, and venues for events with campaign principals
- Assembled and led 13-person Vetting Team, which outperformed expectations, and built a culture valuing personal development, transparency, and initiative
- Developed trusted methodology and standards to ensure that the campaign's associations matched its values and did not distract from the message, and often served as the decisive counsel on tough calls

Consultant, CDMills Group, LLC **August 2014 – March 2015**

- Conducted a political vulnerability assessment of a high-profile individual at a firm owned by Cheryl Mills, former Chief of Staff to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton

Judicial Law Clerk, Chambers of the Honorable Craig Iscoe – D.C. Superior Court **August 2013 – August 2014**

- Advised Judge on legal issues involving medical malpractice, personal injury, property, civil procedure, and contracts
- Drafted roughly 20 weekly memos and orders in response to motions for dismissal, summary judgment, *in limine*, and discovery, among other requests for both civil and criminal cases

Summer Associate, Sandler, Reiff, Young & Lamb **June 2011 – August 2011**

- Researched and wrote memoranda on issues including state and federal campaign finance, lobbying restrictions, robo-call restrictions and candidate qualification requirements

Research Associate, New Partners Consulting, Inc. **May 2008 – August 2010**

- Conducted self and opposition vulnerability assessments of political candidates, which served as the building blocks for defensive and proactive messaging operations in local, state, and federal elections

EDUCATION

Juris Doctor, The George Washington University Law School

May 2013

Bachelor of Arts, Political Science and French, The University of Michigan – Ann Arbor

April 2008

BAR ADMISSIONS District of Columbia, 2017; Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (inactive), 2013