

Contact

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(LinkedIn)

Top Skills

Management
Strategic Communications
Federal Civil Rights expertise

Languages

Spanish

Certifications

DC Bar license
Supreme Court bar license

Honors-Awards

Fulbright Scholar, Ford Fellow,
Valedictorian, Constitutional Law
Scholar

Publications

Finding a Mechanism to Enforce
Women's Rights to Freedom from
Domestic Violence in the Americas
The Impact of Alcohol and Tobacco
Advertising on the Latino Community
as a Civil Rights Issue
Are Rights Reality? Evaluating
Federal Civil Rights Enforcement
Legal Remedies for Domestic
Violence in Chile and the United
States: Cultural Relativism, Myths
and Realities
Further civil & human rights
publications in English & Spanish

Katherine Culliton-Gonzalez

Presidential Appointee (SES), Fulbright Scholar, Valedictorian,
Recognized leader in Civil/Human Rights & Democracy, Bilingual
in Spanish; former: DOJ Civil Rights, US Civil Rights Commission,
Leading Nonprofit Lawyer
Washington DC-Baltimore Area

Summary

Presidential Appointee, Fulbright Scholar and law school
valedictorian with 30 years of compelling civil and human rights
experience. Former Chair of the Civil Rights Committee of the
Hispanic National Bar Association and former DOJ Civil Rights
Division attorney. Inspiring leader of highly effective interdisciplinary
teams in NGOs and in the federal government. Author of significant
research, with extensive testimony and public speaking experience.
Bilingual (English/Spanish); expert in Latin American issues.
Publications include Harvard and Berkeley law review articles.

Experience

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
Biden-Harris Administration Detailee/Office of Civil Rights
September 2022 - Present (1 year)
Washington DC-Baltimore Area

On detail, providing advice and expertise on race and gender equity
matters such as language access, racial disparities in maternal health, and
reproductive rights in the wake of the Dobbs decision.

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Biden-Harris Administration Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Officer
January 2021 - September 2022 (1 year 9 months)
USA

Led and transformed CRCL and its Department-wide impact, through a
significant period of change. Inspired the team of over 100 talented career
staff and leveraged their expertise in an intersectional manner, breaking down
silos and utilizing my 10 years of leadership experience to transform CRCL
starting on Day 1 of the Biden-Harris Administration. Established 10 coalitions,
the first being the Department-wide working group to combat Domestic Violent
Extremism that often targets Asian, Black, Latino, Muslim and Native American

communities. Made recommendations and participated in CRCL oversight of DHS Components, especially in the area of immigration. Led DHS's work on 12 Executive Orders involving race and gender equity. Served as Deputy to the DPC on civil rights matters; ensured inter-agency collaboration on civil and human rights; testified before human rights bodies and briefed Members of Congress. Served on the DHS Family Reunification Task force and other internal task forces. Provided expertise and partnership on civil and human rights issues, in operations such as Operation Allies Welcome, ensuring fair and equitable treatment of thousands of evacuees from Afghanistan. Initiated CRCL Compliance investigations in several new matters involving racial equity, and effectively ensured internal collaboration and appropriate transparency. As agency representative to the President's Gender Strategy Council, ensured that the national strategy included immigrant women and girls as well as an array of intersectional issues. Participated in many CRCL stakeholder meetings; under my leadership, community participation increased exponentially, with Incident Community Coordination teams reaching up to 1,200 participants. Leveraged my experiences to ensure that CRCL and the Department included a wider range of stakeholders, especially among communities of color. Provided insightful and effective advice on Diversity, Equity, Accessibility and Inclusion (DEIA) initiatives.

Hispanic National Bar Association

9 years

Chair, Civil Rights Committee; Co-Chair, 2020-2021 Project
October 2019 - January 2021 (1 year 4 months)

National volunteer leadership position

Chair, Voting Rights Committee

2012 - October 2019 (7 years)

National volunteer leadership position

US Commission on Civil Rights

Director, Office of Civil Rights Evaluation

January 2018 - January 2021 (3 years 1 month)

Washington D.C. Metro Area

Directed and managed OCRE team in evaluation of national civil rights matters for Commission established under 1957 Civil Rights Act; review, assisted in drafting, and produce reports on current civil rights matters; provided extensive expertise on constitutional and civil rights laws regarding various

forms of illegal discrimination. For more info: visit www.usccr.gov and on twitter @USCCR.

Demos

Senior Counsel

September 2016 - January 2018 (1 year 5 months)

DC

Provided expertise in racial justice, community lawyering, voting rights law and democracy issues. Participated in litigation and policy advocacy efforts to expand equal opportunity for communities of color and the next generation to participate in our democracy. Led Demos' immigrant sanctuary work and provide ongoing constitutional and immigration law expertise to support sanctuary movement.

Advancement Project

Director of Voter Protection

April 2012 - June 2016 (4 years 3 months)

Directed and inspired a team of attorneys and advocates, creating highly effective strategies to protect civil and voting rights. Utilized in-depth project management and leadership training to ensure teamwork and strategic impact. Participated in fundraising, fiscal management, and funder and board presentations. Provided briefings for Congressional Hispanic Caucus and led campaign resulting in introduction of the Voting Rights Advancement Act. Supervised voting rights litigation and policy work in various states, mentoring talented staff and ensuring the highest quality legal work. Drafted and supervised production of publications, including *Segregating American Citizenship: Latino Voter Disenfranchisement* (2012); *The Time Tax: America's Newest Form of Voter Suppression for Millennials* (2013); and *Testimony on Voters of Color Facing Longest Lines in Florida* (2013). Created state and national advocacy agenda and policy materials based on racial justice and civil rights expertise. Initiated and led litigation in *Arcia v. Detzner* (stopping Florida purge of naturalized citizens); supervised several impactful voter ID cases. Supervised drafting of various amicus briefs before the Supreme Court on major voting and civil rights cases. Represented the organization as expert panelist and commentator, in English and Spanish. Through my volunteer leadership role as Chair of the Voting Rights Section of the Hispanic National Bar Association, created and presented Continuing Legal Education materials, background policy materials on civil and human rights law, and plenary conference sessions, holding the first national convening of Latino Secretaries of State.

US Dept. of Justice Civil Rights Division (Voting Section)

Attorney

April 2007 - April 2012 (5 years 1 month)

Lead attorney in federal voting rights enforcement actions, with recognized, cutting-edge expertise on language access and Latino voting rights. Prolific author of legal memoranda and briefs on national voting rights issues. Initiated successful new line of cases, revitalizing protections against discrimination, on behalf of thousands of Latino voters. Trained junior attorneys and law interns, and participated in advanced advocacy and management training. Helped generate new strategic initiatives as member of the DOJ National Origin Working Group, including work on immigrants' rights to freedom from discrimination in housing and employment. Received outstanding reviews, early promotion, Certificate of Appreciation (2010), Meritorious Service Award (2009) and Special Achievement Awards (2008 and 2010).

MALDEF

Special Counsel for Immigrants' Rights & Access to Justice

April 2002 - December 2006 (4 years 9 months)

Led policy advocacy on Latino civil rights and immigrants' rights issues, aptly addressing post-9/11 challenges. Represented MALDEF in national and international conferences. Provided compelling legal analyses and testimony in Congress, in briefings and various civil rights and human rights fora. Authored legislative language, position papers, constitutional analyses, coalition-based materials, and expert presentations, in English and Spanish. Frequently interviewed in national media (e.g. New York Times, CNN and Univisión). Judged in Amnesty International Hearings on Post-9/11 Racial Profiling.

GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

International Law Consultant

January 2001 - December 2002 (2 years)

Washington, District of Columbia, United States

In Spanish: Provided expert advice on anti-discrimination law to the Inter-American Commission on Women; co-authored treatise on development law. Delegate, United Nations World Conference Against Racism (Durban, 2001), providing advice and expertise to representatives (in Spanish and Portuguese); drafted declarations on race and gender discrimination.

Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer LLP

Associate in the Latin American Group

January 1996 - December 2000 (5 years)

Washington, District of Columbia, United States

Provided legal advice regarding international development policy and U.S. law to Latin American nations, utilizing familiarity with Latin American law and Spanish and Portuguese language skills. Assisted in researching and drafting private development contracts with Latin American sovereigns (Chile, Venezuela and Mexico), and renegotiations of international development aid for Brazil after an international financial crisis, gaining skills in reviewing international finance and development issues. Assisted in representing the Republic of Argentina before the World Bank's International Center for the Settlement of Investment Disputes. Pro bono: Organized law firm participation in International Association of Women Judges projects, supervising research, drafting bench materials and presenting judicial training sessions in Spanish to Latin American women judges. Trained and supervised volunteer attorneys on immigration and asylum law.

International Association of Women Judges

International Law Advisor

January 1994 - December 1996 (3 years)

Washington, District of Columbia, United States

Drafted and presented judicial training sessions in Spanish and Portuguese. Advised on international and national law for judicial training programs. Delegate to U.N. Expert Meeting in Geneva; authored women's human rights training materials for First United Nations World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995).

Universidad de Valparaiso Facultad de Derecho

Fulbright Scholar/International Law Lecturer

September 1993 - September 1994 (1 year 1 month)

Chile

In Spanish: Created and taught human rights law sessions for 120 first-year law students, designing and implementing novel teaching methodologies and analyses of discrimination based on race, gender, sexual orientation, political opinion, and human rights, in the context of Latin American civil law systems, during the transition to democracy. Served on academic panels and conducted in-depth legal and policy research. In English: published my second law review article on women's rights in the Americas and continued to advise the Inter-American Commission on Women regarding the findings of my first law review article, helping to support the establishment of women's rights as

human rights in the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Eradication and Punishment of Violence Against Women (Belem do Pará).

Education

American Univ. Washington College of Law

Doctor of Law (JD), Civil and Human Rights · (1989 - 1993)

American University Washington College of Law

Doctor of Law (J.D.), Civil and Human Rights