

AMANDA BARAN

EMPLOYMENT

Independent Consultant, Arlington, VA

3/17 to present

- Manage my own business advising non-profit organizations on policy and strategy on immigration issues by writing policy reports and developing advocacy strategies, leading advocacy working groups on immigration regulations and USCIS administrative policy, and providing communications and social media strategy, including writing op/Eds.
- Secured Congressional hearing slot for client, drafted Congressional testimony, organized and participated in large briefings for Congressional staff.

Department of Homeland Security, Office of Policy, Washington, D.C.

9/15 to 2/17

Principal Director, Immigration Policy

- Advised senior Department leadership, including the Secretary's front office, on immigration matters, including those related to refugee/asylum, unaccompanied children, vulnerable populations, national security, and enforcement.
- Managed the Immigration Policy team, reviewed all matters related to agency correspondence, memos, and other taskers, and supported the Deputy Assistant Secretary on personnel issues.
- Worked closely with the components to develop policy and guidance, drafted briefing materials, reviewed and wrote reports, testimony, talking points, and speeches for senior leadership.
- Represented the Department before the White House, federal agencies, and immigrant advocacy, women's and other stakeholders.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Washington, D.C.

3/15 to 9/15

Chief, Public Engagement, Customer Service and Public Engagement Directorate

- Led public engagement for the agency, which included representing the agency at stakeholder meetings, developing strategic public engagement strategies around existing and new agency programs, and raising policy issues identified through stakeholder engagement.
- Managed the public engagement team, which included twelve full-time staff, participated in senior leadership meetings, strategic planning, and budget and personnel meetings.
- Worked closely with the Office of the Director and other key offices and provided expert advice to USCIS and DHS leadership on immigration issues, community engagement, and program resolution.

Department of Homeland Security, Office of Policy, Washington, D.C.

7/09 to 3/15

Senior Policy Analyst, Immigration Policy

- Developed immigration regulations, guidance, and policy working closely within DHS, with the White House, and other federal agencies.
- Drafted and analyzed legislative language for key Administration priorities, including immigration reform and the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).
- Drafted memos, testimony, reports, position papers, talking points, presentations, and speeches on immigration reform and other immigration-related matters, including the DREAM Act, VAWA, DACA, and other immigration and enforcement-related issues for DHS senior leadership.
- Represented the Department before the White House, federal agencies, and the faith, immigrant advocacy, women's and other communities

White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, Washington, D.C. 12/10 to 12/11

Senior Advisor

- Advised the Initiative on issues related to immigration, women's rights, LGBT rights, and language access.
- Drafted and edited memos, speeches, presentations, reports, Op/Eds, press statements, fact sheets, and blogs for the White House website on immigration, women's rights, LGBT rights, and language access.

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- Organized, conducted, and participated in meetings, outreach and strategy sessions, and nationwide conference calls on civil and immigrant rights issues with senior Administration officials for AAPI, LGBT, and Muslim advocates and community members.
- Conducted six women's roundtables across the country and drafted report on AAPI women for the White House Council on Women and Girls and organized four immigrant integration roundtables for the White House Domestic Policy Council.
- Organized AAPI LGBT youth pride and heritage event at the White House.
- Engaged with national, state, and local AAPI and Muslim advocacy organizations on civil and immigrant rights.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Washington, D.C.

10/08 to 7/09

Program Manager, Asylum Division

- Worked closely with other DHS components and agencies to develop operational guidance on credible fear, unaccompanied children, information-sharing, and confidentiality issues.
- Advised the asylum field offices, orally and with formal written guidance, on credible fear, unaccompanied children, information-sharing, and confidentiality issues.

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U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Arlington, Virginia

4/07 to 10/08

Asylum Officer, Arlington Asylum Office

- Adjudicated asylum and NACARA applications, adjudicated credible and reasonable fear cases, oversaw nunc pro tunc project, organized domestic violence training for officers.

[Redacted]

2/03 to 3/07

Staff Attorney, Immigrant Women Program

- Drafted, monitored, and implemented legislation relating to domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, immigration law, public benefits, and health, including VAWA Reauthorization, Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act, immigration reform, and TANF Reauthorization.
- Trained attorneys and anti-violence advocates and developed trainings on domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, cultural competency, public benefits, health, and family and immigration law issues.
- Organized and oversaw national and regional trainings and conferences of up to 500 participants.
- Wrote grant proposals, drafted grant reports, made presentations to funders, and worked with large law firms to implement pro bono projects.
- Drafted training materials, authored articles, represented Legal Momentum at national and regional conferences, hired and supervised interns.

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[Redacted]

8/02 to 1/03

Staff Attorney, Family Law Division

- Provided advice and representation to low-income clients, drafted legal documents, interviewed clients and witnesses, represented clients in family and juvenile courts, provided outreach and community education, performed intakes at shelters, assembled VAWA self-petitions.

[Redacted]

1/02 to 7/02

Immigrant Women Program

- Drafted fact sheets and outreach publications on housing, public benefits, legal services, domestic violence and immigration law, analyzed, and monitored legislation, performed legal research.

EDUCATION

[Redacted]

JD, [Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

International Human Rights Law and Public International Law

[Redacted]

BA, [Redacted] English and Government

PUBLICATIONS

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