

## Professional Experience

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### U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

Washington, D.C.

Assistant Secretary, Office of Partnership and Engagement – May 2021-Present

- Serves as the Secretary's primary advisor on the impact of the Department's policies, regulations, processes, and actions on state, local, tribal, territorial (SLTT) governments, SLTT elected officials, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, and the academic community.
- Oversees nine sub-offices with portfolios including intergovernmental affairs, private organizations, civil society, academia, philanthropy, faith-based organizations and campaigns.
- Manages team of 50 professionals and annual budget.

### Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA)

Boston, MA

President & CEO (formerly Executive Director) – 2008-2021

- Managed and led a statewide coalition with over 150 institutional members.
- Developed and implemented a fundraising plan to leverage existing funding and grow the funding base to include additional foundations, individual donors, and members.
- Created and developed new public and private partnerships statewide and nationally to advance the Coalition's programmatic mission and funding.
- Served as a coalition-builder among MIRA membership, allies, and immigrant and refugee groups within Massachusetts and nationally.
- Served as the primary spokesperson for the organization and works with the Communications Director and senior staff to develop and maintain strong relationships with local, state and national media.

Director of Policy and Advocacy/Deputy Director – 2003-2008

- Responsibilities included providing leadership and managing the state and federal immigration policy programs, managing and supervising program staff, and making executive decisions in the absence of the executive director.
- Monitored and analyzed federal and state legislation on immigration/naturalization policy issues, reviewed and analyzed DHS policy changes affecting immigrant communities eligible for immigration benefits, coordinated and facilitated meetings with Department of Homeland Security officials and service providers as well as other MIRA members.
- Wrote testimonies and testified before the legislature, state and federal, developed and produced community education materials on immigration issues, provided state-wide trainings to immigration service providers and designed and implemented federal and state-wide advocacy campaigns focused on promoting fair immigration policies and social justice.

Director of Immigration Policy – 2000-2003

- Managed and directed MIRA's immigration and policy program at state and federal levels.

National Citizenship Program Director – 1999-2000

- Directed a national citizenship project called the Citizenship Now Collaborative that included five other statewide advocacy organizations and focused on reengineering the US naturalization process.

### Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Boston, MA

Chair, Census Complete Count Committee – 2018-2021

- Lead coalition of over 230 organizations across communities, state and local government to increase awareness and encourage responses to 2020 Census.
- Serve as liaison between Secretary of State and local groups.

### National Partnership for New Americans

Washington, D.C.

Co-chair/Board President – 2009-Present

- Designs and implements national integration policy agenda and strategy for the thirty-seven states that comprise the national partnership. Works in conjunction with the federal government for the promotion of civic, linguistic and economic integration of the foreign-born.
- Co-chairs the largest national immigrant integration conference in the United States.

**Boston College School of Social Work****Boston, MA**

Adjunct Professor of Practice – July 2016-2019

- Taught comparative global policy classes focused immigrant and refugee issues in the United States and European Union.

**Association of New Americans, Inc.****Boston, MA**

President – 2007-2013

- In partnership with colleagues, fundraised and conducted a year long feasibility study in support of a new venture to organize an association for the 22 million legal permanent residents and foreign born citizens of the US by providing web and printed identity materials and citizenship assistance as well as the creation of advocacy for the legal immigrant community often unheard and needed in support of recent policy initiatives.

**Friendly House, Inc.****Worcester, MA**

Director; Immigrant and Refugee Resettlement Program – Jan.1997-June 1999

- Established and directed the resettlement program. Managed, fundraised and supervised program staff, developed immigration programs and provided legal services.

**Law Offices of Randy Feldman****Worcester, MA**

Project Manager – Dec.1996-Nov.1998

- Managed and supervised staff and immigration law projects handled by the firm. Conducted extensive legal research in preparation for asylum claims and labor certificates.

**Clark University****Worcester, MA**

Lecturer – Sep.1993-Aug.1995

- Focused on transition to democracy in Eastern Europe, authoritarian societies, Russian politics and constitutional law during the course of graduate work in the Government Department and deviant behavior in Department of Sociology.

**District Court****Tirana, Albania**

Judge – Jan.1989-July 1992

- Handled more than 300 cases per year, including both civil and criminal cases.

**Education****MA Political Studies**

1993-1995

**Clark University**

Worcester, MA

**Law Degree**

1983-1988

**University of Tirana, School of Law**

Tirana, Albania

**Professional Associations**

- MA Department of Public Health - Health Equity Advisory Board on Covid-19; March 2020-2021
- Mayor's Health Inequity Covid-19 Task Force/Advisory Board, City of Boston; March 2020-2021
- Governor's Advisory Council on Refugees and Immigrants; Co-chair – 2001-2021
- US Commission on Civil Rights - Vice-Chair, 2019-Present; Member – 2010-2019
- MA Attorney General's Advisory Council for New Americans; 2017-2021
- Metropolis International Steering Committee; 2015-2021

**Extracurricular Activities and Awards**

- Rockwood Leadership Institute 2012-2013
- Guest lecturer at Harvard University School of Law, School of Education and School of Government.
- Guest lecturer at Boston College Graduate School of Social Work.
- Guest lecturer at Emerson College
- Frequent speaker and published author at national and international conferences
- Recipient of more than 14 professional awards

**Foreign Languages**

Fluent in Greek and Albanian. Conversant in Italian.