

## EXPERIENCE

### NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL, New York City

May 2017 – Present

*Legislative Counsel, Full Time*

- Draft legislation; Advise on legislative/policy decisions and draft legal analysis, briefing papers, op-ed articles, public comments and other guidance for the Speaker and all 51 Council Members as a member of central staff; Serve on citywide funding panels for cultural institutions; Committee Counsel to the Committees on (1) Women & Gender Equity and (2) Cultural Affairs, Libraries & International Intergroup Relations.

### VERMONT LAW SCHOOL, Remote

Sept. 2019 – Present

*Adjunct Law Lecturer and Course Designer, Part Time*

### INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT, New York City

Dec. 2016 – May 2017

- The Association of Conflict Resolution – Greater New York (ACR-GNY); Middlesex County Jail; The Project for Integrating Spirituality, Law and Politics (PISLAP); Brooklyn Botanic Garden and ALT School (Brooklyn).

### HILLARY FOR AMERICA, DEMOCRATIC PARTY, Florida

Sept. 2016 – Nov. 2016

*Deputy Regional Director of Voter Protection, Full Time*

- Partnered with regional counsel to recruit, train and supervise a team of 640 attorneys, including hosting 14 in-person training sessions and 5 webinars; Coordinated Poll Watcher shifts and staffed events; Involved with managing regional “boiler room” and advised on issues pertaining to 21 Early Voting sites and 570+ precincts.

### U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, Washington, D.C.

Feb. 2016 – Sept. 2016

*Special Assistant, Office of the Administrator, Full Time*

- Advised the Agency’s Deputy Administrator and assisted the Assistant Administrator for Legislative and Public Affairs (LPA) on topics related to critical program and management issues across the agency.
- Drafted talking points, memoranda, briefers and created trainings for colleagues; Coordinated and designed curriculum for LPA’s internship program; Facilitated information flow with Bureaus and Executive Secretariat.
- White House Management Leadership Workshop member (competitive White House program for appointees).

### U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, Washington, D.C.

Aug. 2015 – Dec. 2015

*Legal Extern (CA/OCS/L), Full Time*

- Co-managed a national pro bono attorney network related to The Hague Convention on International Parent-Child Abduction, growing the network by four large firms through National Pro Bono Week outreach; Researched and advised colleagues on treaty implementation in foreign countries; Supported principals in meetings with foreign governments; Facilitated the fast resolution of incoming abduction cases in support of the Office of Children’s Issues, resulting in enhanced relationships with treaty-partners.

### NEW ZEALAND FULBRIGHT COMMISSION, Dunedin, New Zealand

Feb. 2014 – Nov. 2014

*Fulbright Scholar, Full Time*

- Designed and executed comprehensive research program centered at the intersection of restorative justice, racial justice and children’s rights, involving ongoing observation and involvement in facilitator-led conferencing, court procedures, in-depth engagement with indigenous (Māori) communities, and conducting 90+ interviews to inform and highlight promising reform strategies to be disseminated to academic and public audiences.

### THE WHITE HOUSE, Washington D.C.

Aug. 2013 – Dec. 2013

*Legal Clerk (Bridge-the-Gap Fellowship), White House Counsel’s Office, Full Time*

- Researched statutes, cases, legislative history, considered public policy and ethical implications and monitored congressional hearings to prepare memoranda and draft guidance a diverse range of legal and policy issues.

### JAPAN EXCHANGE AND TEACHING PROGRAM, Takasago, Japan

July 2006 – Aug. 2009

*Assistant Language Teacher, Full Time*

- Prepared original lesson plans and taught approximately 25 English classes per week at a public high school.
- Served the prefectural government in leading trainings at regional and national sessions for JET participants.

## EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO, Dunedin, New Zealand

Master of Laws, Aug. 2016

*Honors:* Fulbright U.S. Graduate Award; Otago University Scholarship Award; Otago Publishing Bursary.

LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO, SCHOOL OF LAW, Chicago, IL

Juris Doctor, May 2013

*Legal Internships:* UNITED NATIONS, UNICEF *Legal Intern*, Nairobi, Kenya, full-time, June – Aug. 2012  
U.S. DISTRICT COURT, N.D. ILLINOIS, *Judicial Extern for the Honorable Robert W. Gettleman*  
JUVENILE LAW CENTER, *Americorps JD Fellow, Law & Policy Clerk*, May – Aug. 2011  
EQUIP FOR EQUALITY, *Special Education Legal Intern*, full-time, Jan. – Dec. 2011  
COOK COUNTY DETENTION FACILITY, *Volunteer*, full-time, Oct. 2010 – May 2012

*Clinics:* LOYOLA CHIDLAW LEGISLATION AND POLICY CLINIC, *Clinician*, Jan. – May 2013  
CIVITAS CHIDLAW CLINIC, *Licensed Student Attorney*, Sept. 2012 – May 2013

*Honors:* Civitas ChildLaw Fellow; 2013 University of Michigan Law Bergstrom Child Welfare Fellow; Public Leadership and Service Recognition Awards; Public Interest Achievement Award; Dean's List; 2012 International Law Fellow; Certification: Child and Family Law, Public Interest Law.

*Activities:* Public Interest Society (Board, Auction Co-Chair); *Children's Legal Rights Journal* (Board, Lead Solicitations Editor); *Public Interest Law Reporter* (Editor); *BarBri* Representative, Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center (Law-Related Education Volunteer).

BOSTON COLLEGE, Boston, MA

Master of Education, *with Distinction*, Aug. 2010

*Honors & Activities:* William F. Keough Fellow; Assistantship at the BC Office of International Programs.

ST. OLAF COLLEGE, Northfield, MN

Bachelor of Arts (Economics), *Cum Laude*, May 2004

*Honors & Activities:* Estenson Entrepreneurial Internship Award; University of Oslo exchange student (Jan. – May 2003); Economics interim abroad at East China Normal University, Shanghai (Jan. 2004).

RØNNINGEN FOLKEHØGSKOLE, Oslo, Norway

Vitnemål (Diploma), May 2001

*Activities:* Yearlong program in International Conflict; Studied in Lebanon, Syria and Jordan for four weeks.

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## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- **Bar Membership:** Admitted to practice law in New York (2018, *Active*), Illinois (2013, *Active*).
- **Security Clearance:** Top Secret (S3, Granted by DS, July 2015).
- **Recent Board and other Leadership Positions:** JET Alumni Association (2009- Present; *Board of Directors; former President*); Harlem Parents Restorative Justice Group (2020-); Restorative Justice Initiative Advisor (2017-); Restorative DC Advisory Council (2015-); National Association of Community and Restorative Justice Advisory Council (2016-2019); Hillary for America *Volunteer* (Nov. 2015-Sept 2016); Washington Council of Lawyers (2015-2016); Loyola Chicago's DC Leadership Circle (2015-2017); JustSpeak-NZ Working Group (2014-2016), NZ Federation of Graduate Women Public Affairs Convener (2014-15); Otago Disability Office Proctor (2014-2015).
- **Travel:** Over 70 countries and 6 continents. Teaching experience: U.S., Japan, China, Brazil and Cambodia.
- **Languages:** English (Native); Norwegian (Adv.); Japanese (Beginner); Spanish (Novice); Māori (Novice).
- **Runner:** Finished nine full marathons (42k) and currently engaged with NYRR training programs.
- **Publications:** Over five recent publications, including:
  - Brenda McKinney, *Investigating the Role of Race and Culture in the U.S. Juvenile Justice System*, 37 CHILD. LEGAL RTS. J. 45 (2016); Brenda McKinney & Lauren Salins, *A Decade of Progress: Promising Models for Children in the Turkish Juvenile Justice System*, 12(1) UCLA J. OF ISLAMIC AND NEAR EASTERN LAW 13 (2013); Brenda McKinney, *Interview With: Girl Scouts - From Stonewall to Thin Mints, an Ally for LGBTQ Rights*, 32 CHILD. LEGAL RTS. J. 73 (2012).
- **Conferences, Panels and Presentations:** Over fifteen recent speaking engagements, including:
  - JETAA, Various national webinars (2017-2019) and conference presentations (NYC, 2019; Denver: 2018).
  - Institute of International Education (IIE), Fulbright Alumni Conference, Speaker (NYC: 2017, 2018, 2020).
  - Equal Justice Works (EJW) National Conference, Speaker (DC: 2013, 2015, 2017).
  - "Barriers and Bridges: RJ in Practice," NACRJ National Conference (Oakland: 2017).
  - "The Future of Restorative Justice," Lehman College (Bronx: 2017).
  - Georgetown University International Law and Human Rights Summer Institute, Lecturer (DC: 2016).
  - American Society of Criminology (ASC) Annual Conference, Presenter (DC, 2015).