

Thea Sebastian

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EDUCATION

HARVARD LAW SCHOOL, J.D., May 2016

Honors: Dean's Scholar, Legislation and Regulation; Dean's Scholar, Legal Profession
Activities: Social Enterprise Law Association, Founding President
American Constitution Society, Founding Director of Conversation on Race Series
Professor Laurence Tribe, Research Assistant (constitutional history)
Professor Tomiko Brown-Nagging, Research Assistant (class-based affirmative action)
Professor Lawrence Summers, Independent Paper (policy strategies to address income inequality)

HUNTER COLLEGE, Masters in Secondary Special Education, June 2013

OXFORD UNIVERSITY, M.Sc. in Comparative Social Policy, September 2011

Activities: Democrats Abroad, Oxford Chapter, Events Director
American Society of Oxford, President
Thesis: *Policy as Opportunity: A Staged Approach to Understanding Mobility Opportunity in the United States and Canada* (exploring economic/social policies that promote upward mobility in the U.S. and Canada)

HARVARD COLLEGE, A.B. in Government, June 2008

Activities: Freeze College Magazine, Founding President
Institute of Politics Energy Policy Group, Founding Co-Chair

EXPERIENCE

POLICY COUNSEL, CIVIL RIGHTS CORPS

FEBRUARY 2018 – PRESENT

Washington, DC

- Founded and ran policy program at a nonprofit organization that has led the efforts nationwide around bail, license suspension, fees and fines, diversion, prosecutorial accountability, and other areas across the criminal system;
- Designed Civil Rights Corps' policy positions, including development of model legislation and advocacy materials;
- Worked with advocacy groups, judges, district attorneys, and local, state, and federal policymakers to run advocacy campaigns and otherwise advance the policy positions of Civil Rights Corps;
- Expanded Civil Rights Corps' work to new areas, such as justice reinvestment and voting rights, including by building new partnerships and alliances;
- Supported the litigating attorneys by advising settlement negotiations and otherwise overseeing policy-related matters.

ASSOCIATE GENERAL COUNSEL, EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF MAYOR MURIEL BOWSER

AUGUST 2016 – FEBRUARY 2018

Washington, DC

- Spearheaded legislation and new rules to advance Administration goals, including the end of automatically suspending driver's licenses following drug-related offenses and a new DC Government policy not to ask salary history when making new hires;
- Developed, built support for, and project managed a pilot program to help returning citizens resolve court-related debt and access driver licenses, while evaluating the pilot's social and financial effects via an evidence-based "encouragement" design;
- Helped design, project manage, and coordinate initiatives relating to an Immigrant Justice Legal Services grant program that provided \$1 million to DC legal organizations serving the immigrant community.

MAYOR'S OFFICE POLICY FELLOW, EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF MAYOR MIKE DUGGAN

JANUARY 2016

Detroit, MI

- Provided legal and policy advice on criminal justice, education, and other issues, including development of a Detroit Promise Zone (e.g. program providing free college for low-income Detroit youth), a Detroit Education Commission (e.g. body coordinating charter and district schools) and rapid response to an emerging crisis involving school conditions.

LAW CLERK, CENTER FOR POPULAR DEMOCRACY
New York City, NY

MAY 2015 – AUGUST 2015

- Conducted research and wrote papers on police brutality, education, racial profiling, and other topics, while supporting the lead attorney in developing “visionary” policy demands for the Black Lives Matter movement.

CLINICAL STUDENT, CTR. FOR HEALTH LAW AND POLICY INNOVATION, HARVARD LAW SCHOOL SEPT. 2014 – JAN. 2015
Cambridge, MA

- Wrote policy papers, toolkits, and publicity materials on issues including “food as medicine” (i.e. treating food provision as a healthcare service) and joint-use agreements that allow health / wellness organizations to use public space easily.

INTERN, WHITE HOUSE DOMESTIC POLICY COUNCIL
Washington D.C.

MAY 2014 – AUGUST 2014

- Supported the Urban Affairs, Justice and Opportunity team by researching, helping manage, and analyzing data on Administration efforts targeting concentrated poverty, social mobility, criminal justice and place-based development, which included the My Brother’s Keeper, Promise Zones, and Ladders of Opportunity initiatives.

SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER, TEACH FOR AMERICA
South Bronx, NY

JUNE 2011 – JUNE 2013

- Designed and executed social studies, math and English Language Arts curricula in self-contained and integrated co-teaching settings, including development of brand-new course curricula implementing the Common Core educational standards.
- Provided case management and interventions for students who had learning disabilities and emotional disturbances.
- Directly managed two paraprofessionals to maximize classroom learning and stability.

POLICY ANALYST, MARTHA COAKLEY FOR SENATE
Charlestown, MA

AUGUST 2009 – JANUARY 2010

- Wrote briefing memoranda, talking points and candidate questionnaires on numerous issues, including the economy, international aid, healthcare, energy, and criminal justice, operating under high-pressure conditions.

PUBLICATIONS

- [Challenging Money Bail in the Courts](#), August 2018, American Bar Association Judges’ Journal, *with* Alec Karakatsanis
- [Too Poor to Vote](#), October 2018, New York Times, *with* Danielle Lang

OTHER QUALIFICATIONS

VOLUNTEER Special Counsel for Navajo Nation, Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee OCT. 2018 – NOV. 2018
Navajo Nation, Arizona

Voter Protection, Doug Jones for Senate Campaign (led desk in boiler room) DEC. 2017
Birmingham, Alabama

Voter Protection, Hillary for America Campaign (ran Michigan hotline) NOV. 2016
Detroit, Michigan

LANGUAGES Spanish (proficient), French (proficient)

BAR ADMISSIONS District of Columbia, 2017