D.C. Bar Legislative Counsel Summit

About the Speakers
(Listed Alphabetically)

Michelle Beneke, Senate Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs Committee (Bio to be provided.)

Megan D. Browder is the deputy attorney general for the Legal Counsel Division in the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia (OAG). She previously was senior counsel to the Attorney General. Prior to becoming senior counsel, Ms. Browder was an assistant attorney general in OAG's Office of the Solicitor General. As an appellate attorney, she represented the Attorney General and several District agencies before the D.C. Circuit and the D.C. Court of Appeals. Her practice included a wide range of legal topics, including administrative law, employment discrimination, and constitutional law.

Ms. Browder draws on several years of litigation experience as well. Prior to joining OAG, she practiced at a boutique litigation firm with a mix of trial and appellate work. Her clients included financial institutions, private corporations, nonprofit organizations, and individuals. Ms. Browder served as a law clerk to the Hon. Allyson Duncan at the US Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit and then the Hon. James Boasberg at the US District Court for the District of Columbia. She is a graduate of Columbia University and Yale Law School.

Christiane Cardoza Brundage is an attorney in the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the General Counsel, Legislation Division. Among her previous roles, she spent five years as a member of the federal policy team for the State of Hawaiʻi Office of Hawaiian Affairs and three years in various roles, including as counsel, in the United States Senate.

Christiane earned her BS in environmental science and MS in global health from the University of Notre Dame. Sher earned her JD from the American University Washington College of Law.

Ryan Corle, Department of Homeland Security (Bio to be provided.)

Sarah Garcia serves as the deputy staff director and general counsel for the Democratic staff of the US House of Representatives Committee on Veterans' Affairs. In that role, Sarah advises the ranking member on the strategic, legislative, and

oversight activities of the Committee, as well as on legal and procedural matters that impact the Committee's work. Previously, Sarah was senior counsel to Senator Claire McCaskill, serving on both the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee and the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations. Prior to that Sarah worked on special projects and constituent issues in the office of Senator Jeff Bingaman.

Before coming to Capitol Hill in 2009, Sarah was a prosecutor in her home state of New Mexico. Sarah received her JD from the American University, Washington College of Law, and her BA in history from Boston College.

Michael L. Goad began his appointment as assistant general counsel (legislative counsel) with the Office of the General Counsel, US Department of Homeland Security, in 2016. Mr. Goad oversees the legal practice that is responsible, chiefly, for the development of that agency's legislative proposals.

Over the course of the last thirty-five years, he has held a variety of legal appointments and non-legal appointments with the US Department of Homeland Security, the US Office of Government Ethics, the Office of Management and Budget, the US Department of Justice, and the US Department of Transportation.

Michael is a member of the District of Columbia and Illinois bars. He received a JD from the Catholic University of America, a MPAff. from Southern Illinois University, and a BA, with university honors, from Southern Illinois University. Mr. Goad is a native of Illinois and a resident of Virginia.

Andrea Goel, Office of Management and Budget (Bio to be provided.)

Beth M. Grossman has served as the assistant general counsel for legislation and regulation at the US Department of Commerce since 2015. In this capacity, she manages the provision of legal advice and assistance concerning legislative and regulatory work across the Department.

Prior to joining the Commerce Department, Ms. Grossman served as chief counsel to the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. In over twelve years with the Committee, she worked on a wide range of legislative and oversight matters, including the bill that enacted the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission, a report on the failed response to Hurricane Katrina and the resulting legislation to strengthen FEMA, an investigation into the collapse of Enron Corp., legislation streamlining the process for nominating and confirming presidential appointees, and efforts to reform the US Postal Service.

Ms. Grossman began her career with the federal government as an attorney in the Bureau of Consumer Protection at the Federal Trade Commission, where she handled

false advertising cases and started the FTC's program to assist victims of identity theft. She is a graduate of Brown University, Harvard Law School, and the Harvard Kennedy School.

Michelle Johnson-Weider is an attorney in the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the General Counsel, Legislation Division. She previously spent three years as a program analyst for SNAP certification policy at the Food and Nutrition Service and thirteen years in the United States Senate Office of the Legislative Counsel, where she had primary responsibility for drafting legislative proposals relating to agriculture and nutrition.

From 2020 – 2022, she co-taught a spring class in legislative analysis and drafting at the George Washington University Law School in Washington, DC. Michelle earned her BA in anthropology from the University of Florida and her JD from Stetson University College of Law. In December 2019 she received her LLM in agricultural & food law from the University of Arkansas School of Law.

Alan Kahn, Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs Committee, United States Senate (Bio to be provided.)

Michelle Kallen, former solicitor general of Virginia, is a partner with Jenner & Block LLP, where she helps clients navigate complex matters before federal and state appellate courts. Leading companies in the aerospace and defense, hospitality, technology, and transportation industries benefit from her extensive government experience, unique insight into multistate and constitutional litigation matters, and award-winning appellate work.

Michelle regularly files briefs and litigates matters in the Supreme Court of the United States, the Supreme Court of Virginia, the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, the Eastern District of Virginia, and other state and federal courts. She achieved notable wins in these venues during her tenure in the Office of the Attorney General of Virginia, including defending the Commonwealth against challenges to its COVID-19 response. Michelle also served as lead counsel in the Commonwealth's election matters and in litigation to certify and publish the Equal Rights Amendment to the US Constitution.

Michelle's past public service includes serving as special litigation counsel in the US House of Representatives, representing the Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol. She successfully defended the Committee against attempts to block subpoenas for phone records and an effort to compel testimony from sixteen lawmakers and congressional staffers.

Michelle is a member of the California, District of Columbia, and Virginia bars, and is admitted to practice before various federal courts of appeals and the Supreme Court

of the United States. Michelle serves as a mentor for The Appellate Project and is also a founding member of the Ad Idem Corporate Counsel Network, the Washington Area Women Trial Attorneys, and the Women Lawyers on Guard. She earned her JD from Vanderbilt University School of Law, and a BA from Stanford University.

Francine J. Kerner, Transportation Security Administration (Bio to be provided.)

Joseph B. Maher formerly served as the principal deputy general counsel and as the designated agency ethics official at the US Department of Homeland Security. Under the general counsel, Mr. Maher advised the secretary and other senior leaders on a wide array of homeland security and other matters.

Mr. Maher joined the Department shortly after its creation in 2003. He has served in a number of legal positions, including as the deputy general counsel, the associate general counsel for regulatory and legislative affairs, and as a legal advisor to the Department's Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties. He has also served as the acting general counsel for extended periods. Mr. Maher is now a partner at Nixon Peabody LLP. Aside from his legal positions, Mr. Maher previously led the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Intelligence and Analysis and served as the chief intelligence officer.

Mr. Maher recently worked as a senior staff member of the US House of Representatives Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol. He served as the senior counsel to vice chair Liz Cheney. In this role, he developed investigative strategy, conducted investigative interviews and depositions, assisted with litigation in more than twenty lawsuits filed against the Select Committee, prepared members for hearings, and drafted portions of the Select Committee's final report.

Mr. Maher graduated with honors from both the University of Chicago Law School, where he served on the *University of Chicago Law Review*, and Northwestern University (earning a degree in materials science and engineering). He also holds a Master of Laws degree (national security law) from Georgetown University. After law school, he clerked for the Honorable E. Grady Jolly on the US Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

Nakia L. Matthews joined the legal ethics program at the District of Columbia Bar in 2019. As senior legal ethics counsel, she provides guidance to members of the D.C. Bar seeking information on the interpretation and application of the D.C. Rules of Professional Conduct. In addition, she provides staff support to the both the Legal Ethics Committee and the Rules Review Committee of the D.C. Bar.

Prior to serving as senior legal ethics counsel, Nakia spent four years as a managing attorney at the D.C. Bar Pro Bono Center where she served as a managing attorney

for the Center's Bankruptcy, Consumer Law and Advice and Referral Clinics and served as a supervisor for the Landlord/Tenant Resource Center in Superior Court.

John H. Spittell, Office of Management & Budget (Bio to be provided.)

Veena Srinivasa has served as an attorney drafting legislation with the Office of the Legislative Counsel of the United States House of Representatives since 2012. In that capacity, she drafts federal legislation for the members, committees, and leadership of the House, specializing in the areas of financial services, small business, and defense procurement. She has been involved in training new attorneys for the Office of the Legislative Counsel for over nine years.

She earned her JD from the Georgetown University Law Center where she served as the symposium editor for the Georgetown Journal on Poverty Law & Policy and participated on the Barristers Council Moot Court Team. She served as a law clerk for a group of senior judges at the D.C. Superior Court, providing case law research on both civil and criminal matters. She earned a bachelor's degree from Brown University in public policy and sociology.

Erika L. Stillabower is a senior legal ethics counsel at the District of Columbia Bar. Since 2013, she has provided guidance to members of the D.C. Bar seeking information on the interpretation and application of the D.C. Rules of Professional Conduct.

Ms. Stillabower contributes to columns on legal ethics that appear in the Washington Lawyer and regularly serves as faculty on MCLE accredited ethics courses. In addition, she provides staff support to the Legal Ethics Committee and the Rules of Professional Conduct Review Committee of the D.C. Bar. In connection with her committee work, she assists in drafting informal chair letters and Legal Ethics Committee opinions.

Kathryn Swiss has served as an attorney drafting legislation with the Office of the Legislative Counsel of the United States House of Representatives since 2014. In that capacity, she drafts federal legislation for the members, committees, and leadership of the House, specializing in various areas of law, including the areas of securities, commodity crop assistance, crop insurance, child nutrition, and forestry. She has participated in recruiting and training new attorneys for the Office of the Legislative Counsel for over five years.

She earned her JD from Washington University in Saint Louis School of Law where she was the recipient of both the Scholar in Law Academic Scholarship and the Shirley L. Wheatly Public Interest Fellowship and participated as chief executive editor for the Jurisprudence Review. She earned a BA and MA in English literature from the University of Notre Dame.

Alexandra Ventura, Office of Management and Budget (Bio to be provided.)