

LEON RODRIGUEZ
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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

SEYFARTH SHAW

Partner, (Co-Managing Partner, DC Office)

Feb. 2017 - Present
Washington, DC

Co-Managing Partner of Washington DC office of AMLaw 100 global law firm. Personal practice concentrating on immigration, litigation, government controversies including white-collar investigations, government relations, health care fraud and abuse, health information privacy and security, and civil rights .

- Co-Chair, Immigration Compliance and Enforcement Team
- Chair, Government Relations Policy Group
- Co-Chair, Health Privacy and Security Affinity Team
- Coordinator, Health Care Institute
- Named in Seyfarth Business Immigration Group's 2020 Legal 500 Tier 1 Rank
- Rated Band 3 in Washington, DC-Immigration in Chambers Washington, DC (2020)
- Lead counsel in Faith Organization's Supreme Court amicus brief in *Rranxburjaj v. Mayorkas*
- Plaintiff's expert witness in *Saget v. Trump*, which resulted in preservation of TPS for Haiti
- Co-amicus in amicus brief of former immigration officials supporting DACA.
- Co-amicus along with former civil rights officials in supporting petitioners in *Zarda v. Altitude Express*, which resulted in Supreme Court holding that sexual orientation discrimination was a form of sex discrimination under Title VII.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, U.S. CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES

Director

July 2014 – Jan. 2017
Washington, DC

Senate-confirmed Director (Undersecretary level) of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services ("USCIS"), the agency that administers the United States' immigration laws, regulations and policies. I lead the organization in handling 8 million immigration benefit adjudications annually with a workforce of nearly 19,000 people in 250 offices around the world. Key initiatives and accomplishments under my leadership included:

- Implementation of President Obama's Executive Actions on Immigration: USCIS was charged with the implementation of a majority of the elements in President Obama's Executive Actions on Immigration. Significant executive action accomplishments included: 1) launch of the Welcoming Communities campaign in which USCIS collaborates with local governments to promote citizenship; 2) a multimedia Citizenship Awareness Campaign; 3) application rates for citizenship thirty percent over prior years; and 4) drafting and issuance of policies and regulations to support high-skilled immigrant workers and their families.
- Response to the worldwide refugee crisis and the dramatic increase in domestic asylum filings: USCIS had lead responsibility for refugee applicant screening in support of the President' Obama's directive to admit at least 85,000 refugees, including 10,000 from Syria, in FY 2016. To meet this challenge, USCIS mobilized significant personnel and developed new efficient work processes designed to both facilitate admissions and fully protect national security. We also played a critical role in the development and implementation of the Central American Minors Program to address humanitarian challenges in the Northern Triangle of Central America and deter dangerous land migration by children and family units.

- National Security Screening: Lead USCIS in developing new tools to ensure that individuals posing a threat to public safety and/or national security do not have access to immigration benefits. In particular, we rapidly expanded the review of applicants' social media presence to identify evidence of inadmissibility.

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS**
Director

September 2011 – July 2014
Washington, DC

Head of federal agency responsible for enforcement of health information privacy laws (HIPAA/HITECH) and antidiscrimination laws applicable to HHS and its grantees (e.g., Title VI and Rehabilitation Act). Key accomplishments include:

- Dramatic increase in HIPAA monetary enforcement activity - widely heralded as promoting greater compliance with health information privacy laws throughout health care industry.
- Issuance of updated HIPAA regulations as mandated under the HITECH Act, which provided improved tools for health privacy enforcement and clarified privacy standards for use of health information in marketing.
- Successful completion of first HIPAA audit pilot, which became the model for a permanent audit program now being utilized by HHS
- Initiation of enforcement activity under Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act anti-discrimination provisions, which for the first time recognized gender as a protected category in combating discrimination in health care, and also directly applied to anti-discrimination provisions directly to the federal government.
- Issuance of key HIPAA guidance documents on health information de-identification, patient access to health information, and health care provider disclosure of information about threats to public safety.
- Implementation of 50 state Critical Access Hospital Title VI language access compliance reviews, successfully expanding access to competent language assistance in a variety of health care settings.
- Development of HHS Departmental Language Access Plan.
- Creation for the first time of civil rights investigator academy serving multiple federal agencies,
- Creation for the first time of Central Intake Unit to manage processing of 10,000+ complaints received by HHS/OCR annually.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION January 2010 – September 2011
Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Chief of Staff Washington, DC

- Chief of Staff to Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights (Tom Perez), supervising all administrative operations in Civil Rights Division, including personnel, professional development, facilities, information technology, litigation support, public outreach and media relations and other management functions.
- Deputy Assistant Attorney General with direct oversight over Management Section and Office of Special Counsel for Immigration-Related Unfair Employment Practices

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD GOVERNMENT
County Attorney

May 2007 – January 2010
Rockville, MD

- Chief Legal Officer for Montgomery County, Maryland government.
- Led forty-seven lawyers in providing litigation, transactional and general counsel services to Montgomery County and related governmental clients.
- Represented Montgomery County Government Self-Insurance Fund, and Maryland-National Capital Parks and Planning Commission.

OBAMA-BIDEN TRANSITION PROJECT
Agency Review Team Member

November 2008 – January 2009
Washington, DC

OBER, KALER, GRIMES & SHRIVER
Shareholder

May 2001 – May 2007
Washington, DC

- Practice concentrating on white-collar and health law matters.
- Represented individuals and companies in federal and state government investigations and prosecutions of health care fraud and securities, accounting and tax fraud.
- Defended health care providers including physicians, in state licensure and Medicare/Medicaid certification matters. Developed compliance plans for health care providers.

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
Western District of Pennsylvania

June, 1997 – May, 2001
Pittsburgh, PA

- *First Assistant U.S. Attorney* (4/99-5/01)
- *Chief, White Collar Crimes Section* (6/98-4/99)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Civil Rights Division, Criminal Section
Trial Attorney

August, 1994 -June, 1997
Washington, DC

Investigation and prosecution of federal criminal civil rights cases involving law enforcement misconduct, hate crimes, and involuntary servitude.

KINGS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
Senior Assistant District Attorney

August 1988-July 1994
Brooklyn, NY

Assignments to Corruption Investigation Division (11/93-6/94), Organized Crime Bureau (9/91- 11/93) and Sex Crimes/ Special Victims Bureau (10/89-9/91).

EDUCATION

BOSTON COLLEGE LAW SCHOOL, Newton, MA, J.D. 1988

BROWN UNIVERSITY, Providence, RI, B.A. History, 1984

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- Member, American Immigration Lawyers Association. Member, Administrative Litigation Committee
- Member, **Advisory Committee on Admissions and Grievances, Court of Appeals, D.C. Federal Circuit** – Serve on committee charged with reviewing attorney discipline matters and submitting recommendations to the Court of Appeals, November 2006 – June 2012.
- Member, **International Municipal Lawyer's Association**, May 2007 – January 2010.
- Member, **Montgomery County Bar Association**, 2006 – 2010.
- Board Member, **DC Hispanic Bar Association Foundation**, 2002 – 2007. Member, **DC Bar Criminal Law and Individual Rights Section** (Informal Member of Steering Committee; Coordinator: Civil Rights Series), 2002 – 2007.

MEDIA AND OTHER PUBLIC APPEARANCES

- I have been interviewed extensively on local, national and international television, radio and print media in English and Spanish, on topics including immigration, criminal justice and civil rights.
- Numerous speeches, expert panel appearances and presentations on subjects including immigration law, policy and operations; health information privacy; civil rights (including Title VI and criminal civil rights issues); health care fraud and abuse; nursing home survey and certification; and municipal law.

PUBLICATIONS

- Have extensively published both articles and op-eds on subjects including health care fraud and abuse, white collar criminal investigations and immigration.

PROFESSIONAL AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

- Boston College Law School David S. Nelson Public Interest Law Award 2016
- Montgomery County Executive Hispanic Gala Public Service Award 2015
- Named to Forward 50 2015 (Forward Magazine 50 most influential Jewish-Americans), 2015
- Named One of 50 Top Latino Influentials by Hispanic Business Magazine, 2014
- Named Outstanding Health Care Litigator for 2004 by Nightingale Health Care News
- Received Maryland Hispanic Bar Association Leadership Award in 2007

COMMUNITY BOARDS AND ORGANIZATIONS

- Board Member, HIAS, May 2017 - Present; Chair, External Affairs Committee
- Board Member, Adventure Theatre Musical Theater Center, July 2017 - September 2019t
- Board Member, Montgomery County Primary Care Coalition, December 2005 – May 2007.
- Board Member, CASA de Maryland – Also provided *pro bono* support to Legal and Human Resources Department, including training on sexual harassment issues; Chair, Nominations Committee, November 2005 – May 2007.

BAR ADMISSIONS

- Admitted to Maryland Court of Appeals, New York State Court of Appeals, Court of Appeals of the District of Columbia, United States Supreme Court, District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania, United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit and the District Court for the District of Columbia.

LANGUAGES

- Fluent in Spanish and French; Conversational Italian and Hebrew.