

SARA S. ZDEB
Emory University School of Law
1301 Clifton Road • Atlanta, GA 30322 • sara.zdeb@emory.edu

EXPERIENCE

EMORY UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, Atlanta, GA **July 2025-Present**

Visiting Assistant Professor of Practice

- Courses taught in separation of powers, congressional investigations, and government lawyering.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, Washington, D.C. **2022-January 2025**

Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs

- Member of senior executive leadership team responsible for strategic planning, management, and hiring across 50+ person office that manages DOJ's relationship with Congress.
- Led eight-person team that managed DOJ's response to a high volume of sensitive congressional investigations and oversight requests. Advised DOJ leadership on high-stakes congressional inquiries and oversaw response to dozens of subpoenas and hundreds of voluntary requests for testimony, documents, and information.
- Prepared Attorney General, Deputy Attorney General, Special Counsels, U.S. Attorneys, Assistant Attorneys General, and other DOJ, FBI, and ATF officials to testify before Congress.

U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY, Washington, D.C. **2019-2022**

Chief Counsel for Oversight, Chair Richard J. Durbin (2021-2022)

Senior Counsel, Ranking Member Dianne Feinstein (2019-2021)

- Member of senior leadership team responsible for developing and executing Judiciary Committee's agenda and overseeing 31-person staff. Directly managed six-person oversight team that conducted oversight and investigations of the executive branch and private sector.
- Organized high-profile oversight hearings on topics including the January 6 attack, domestic terrorism, hate crimes, threats to election officials, data security, and the FBI's failure to investigate sexual abuse claims against Larry Nassar.
- Advised Chair Richard J. Durbin, Ranking Member Dianne Feinstein, and other committee members on the 2021 and 2020 impeachment trials of President Donald J. Trump.

O'MELVENY & MYERS LLP, Washington, D.C. **2008-2015, 2017-2019**

Counsel & Associate, White Collar Defense Practice Group

- Oversaw day-to-day case management in high-stakes government investigations and enforcement actions, with a focus on congressional investigations, False Claims Act matters, and healthcare fraud.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, Washington, D.C. **2015-2017**

Senior Counsel to the General Counsel (2016-2017)

Counsel to the General Counsel (2015-2016)

- Served as senior in-house counsel to 46,000-person Cabinet department responsible for creating the conditions for economic growth and opportunity. Coordinated with political and career personnel across 450-person legal department to provide customer service-oriented, time-sensitive advice to Secretary, General Counsel, and other Department executives on a range of significant risk management, policy, and congressional oversight matters.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, Washington, D.C.**Fall 2007****Law Clerk, Environmental Enforcement Section**

Drafted motions, pleadings, and legal memoranda for a broad range of civil enforcement actions involving the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, and other environmental statutes.

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH, Washington, D.C.**1999-2007****Legislative Director, Legislative Representative & Legislative Associate**

Directed all aspects of government affairs strategy for leading environmental organization.

EDUCATION

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER, Washington, D.C.**May 2008**

Juris Doctor, *Magna Cum Laude*

Honors: Order of the Coif, CALI Award in Advanced Legal Writing

DUKE UNIVERSITY, Durham, N.C.**May 1998**

Bachelor of Arts, Environmental Science and Policy

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- *The Real Reason Trump's Purge of Career DOJ Officials Should Alarm You*, Just Security (Jan. 30, 2025)

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Select Trainings, Speaking Engagements, and Consulting

- Instructor, *Oversight and Investigations: What it Means and How to Make it Work*, Project on Government Oversight, 119th Congress Congressional Staff Training Program (Feb. 28, 2025).
- Panelist, *High Crimes and Misdemeanors: The Dual Impeachments of Donald Trump*, American Constitution Society, University of Pennsylvania Law School and Columbia Law School Chapters (March 9, 2021).
- Regularly advise congressional staff and individuals appearing before Congress.

Professional Memberships

- Admitted to practice: District of Columbia, Maryland (inactive)
- Member: Edward Bennett Williams Inn of Court, Military Spouse JD Network