

Summer K. Mersinger

Experienced regulatory leader with a strong background in financial policy, specializing in cryptocurrency and blockchain regulation. As a Commissioner at the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC), actively advocates for clear and transparent regulatory frameworks for decentralized finance (DeFi) and digital assets. Demonstrated expertise in shaping crypto policy through engagement with industry stakeholders, issuing key statements on enforcement actions, and promoting regulatory harmonization. Recognized globally as a dynamic speaker on regulatory developments, especially around web3 both with the press and in public speaking engagements. Extensive experience in legislative and regulatory affairs, financial market oversight, and intergovernmental relations, with a track record of influencing policy at the highest levels of government and building policy strategies.

Experience

Blockchain Association | Washington, DC

/ CEO / June 2025-Present /

- Oversee all executive operations for the preeminent crypto trade association, managing a membership base of 100+ leading companies to drive consensus on critical legislative and regulatory priorities.
- Spearhead high-stakes advocacy efforts on Capitol Hill, leading testimony before the U.S. Senate Banking Committee and House Ways and Means Oversight Subcommittee, and engaging with the Administration to advance pro-innovation regulatory frameworks for stablecoins and market structure.
- Spearheaded the restructuring of member-led working groups, streamlining collaboration on critical policy priorities and ensuring a cohesive, expert voice in high-stakes negotiations
- Serve as public spokesperson for the blockchain ecosystem, delivering keynote addresses at global summits and securing extensive coverage in top-tier outlets like CNBC, Bloomberg, and Fortune to shape the narrative around digital asset policy.
- Lead the strategic response to "regulation by enforcement" by drafting supplemental comment letters on federal rules and championing the GENIUS Act to establish federal supervision and transparency for U.S. digital asset projects.

U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) | Washington, DC

/ Commissioner | March 2022-May 2025/

- Presidentially nominated and Senate confirmed financial regulatory position, unanimously confirmed by the United States Senate in March of 2022.
- Received second Presidential appointment for a full five-year term and again confirmed unanimously by the United States Senate in April of 2024.
- Sponsor of the Energy and Environmental Markets Advisory Committee, bringing together industry stakeholders with diverse viewpoints to study existing markets, identify emerging markets and offer consensus-based recommendations to the full commission.
- Advocate for clear regulatory frameworks in decentralized finance (DeFi) and digital assets, emphasizing transparent rulemaking over enforcement-first approaches.

- Champion of blockchain technology's potential to enhance global financial markets while promoting regulatory harmonization and innovation.
- Regular participant in discussions with global leaders and policymakers around financial regulations broadly, often involving discussions related to regulatory approach to web3 innovations.
- Issued dissenting statements on enforcement actions against DeFi protocols, cautioning against the risks of regulation through enforcement and advocating for proactive engagement with the industry.
- Globally recognized speaker on market regulation, including digital asset markets and the use of blockchain technology in financial markets. This includes both to press and in public events.
- Offered technical expertise to Congress during drafting of legislation around digital asset market structure and stablecoin regulation.
- Experience in addressing Congressional committees through public hearings.
- Led targeted member briefings on digital asset regulation, as well as in one-on-one meetings with interested Members of Congress and Senators.

/ Chief of Staff / Office of Commissioner Dawn D. Stump / January 2021 - March 2022 /

- Coordinated with leadership across the agency on regulatory and enforcement efforts.
- Engaged with industry stakeholders on pending regulatory matters and ongoing concerns.
- Offered technical assistance to Congressional offices on matters related to digital asset definitions and existing regulations.
- Served as surrogate speaker for the Commissioner, including at public events involving cryptocurrency policy matters.

/ Director / Office of Legislative & Intergovernmental Affairs / August 2019 – March 2020 /

- Chief legislative advisor to the Chairman, managing Congressional relations.
- Spearheaded efforts to reauthorize the Commodity Exchange Act and secure full agency funding.
- Coordinated international negotiations with financial regulators.
- Organized and led internal team to offer technical assistance and guidance on drafting of early digital asset market regulation legislative frameworks.
- Negotiated controversial legislative provisions with congressional offices and stakeholders to reach consensus.
- Actively worked with Congressional offices for approval for elevation of CFTC Innovation Office, highlighting its role and priority of CFTC for responsible digital assets policy.
- Received Chairman's award for Excellence in Management.

The Smith-Free Group / Washington, DC

/ Senior Vice President / January 2015 – August 2019 /

- Advised multinational financial services firms on Congressional and regulatory matters and policy strategies.
- Recognized by industry and Capitol Hill as a policy expert on fintech related matters.
- Facilitated stakeholder engagement on cybersecurity, privacy policy, and artificial intelligence.
- Assisted fintech leaders in managing state and federal money transmission matters.
- Led discussions with Senate Finance Committee staff around treatment of digital assets in tax reform legislation.

- Acted as a liaison between clients and the Administration, securing opportunities for high level financial regulator meetings as well as access to policy discussions within the West Wing.
- Known for a bipartisan approach to government relations with strong relationships with Congressional offices and administrative agencies, regardless of political affiliation.
- Worked closely with both non-profits and law firms in executing clients' policy priorities.
- Planned and coordinated successful fundraising events for Members of Congress and Senators raising funds for these events from existing clients along with other industry players who were not firm clients.
- Identified and successfully secured new business opportunities for the firm, including new clients and new policy focus areas.

United States Senator John Thune | Washington, DC

| Various Leadership Roles | November 2004 – December 2014 |

- Served as DC Chief of Staff, Deputy Chief of Staff, Senior Policy Advisor, and General Counsel.
- Appointed as one of two transition team staff members responsible for planning and organizing the new Senate office, which included hiring staff for DC and in-State offices.
- Key advisor during the 2008 financial crisis and the Dodd-Frank Act debate.
- Worked across the aisle on various issues impacting the financial services industry and successfully obtained strong bipartisan support for legislative amendment to limit budget authority for the Troubled Asset Relief Program.
- Coordinated the hiring and management of committee and leadership offices.
- Managed legislative strategy, staff development, and ethics compliance.
- Managed budget for the office.

John Thune for United States Senate | Sioux Falls, SD

| Director of Events | May – November 2004 |

- Led grassroots outreach, event coordination, and voter mobilization efforts.
- Served as liaison between the campaign and community and business leadership within the state.
- Worked closely with the finance director on planning fundraising events and processing political donations.

Arent-Fox, LLP. | Washington, DC

| Director – Government Relations | 2003-2004 |

- Advocated on behalf of agricultural and non-profit organizations before Congress and federal agencies.

United States Congressman John Thune | Washington, DC

| Executive Assistant, Staff Assistant | 1999-2003 |

- Managed Congressional office operations and constituent services.

Education

- **J.D.** | The Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law | 2007 |
- **B.A., Political Science** | University of Minnesota | 1999 |

Bar Admission

- District of Columbia / Admitted 2008 /
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Industry Engagement & Interests

- Wife and proud mom of four children.
 - Advocate with Fairfax County Court Appointed Child Advocates Program.
 - Member of the Federalist's Society Financial Services Executive Committee.
 - Featured in CNN segment on literacy programs.
 - Former Treasurer, US Senate Employees Child Care Center.
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