

Sarah Parshall Perry

Sarah Parshall Perry is Vice President and Legal Fellow at Defending Education.

Before coming to Defending Education, Sarah served as a Senior Legal Fellow for the Edwin Meese III Center for Legal and Judicial Studies, part of the Institute for Constitutional Government at the Heritage Foundation, where her work centered on civil rights, constitutional, and administrative law.

Sarah joined Heritage after serving as Senior Counsel to the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Education, where she focused on policy reform, technical guidance, and the Office for Civil Rights' (OCR) annual report to Congress. Prior to her tenure at the Department of Education, she spent six years at the Family Research Council in Washington, D.C., where she was Senior Fellow for Education Reform and later became the regular substitute host for the "Washington Watch" radio show. Her work at the Family Research Council also included building and overseeing multiple policy coalitions focused on combating antisemitism in academia, curbing tech censorship, and protecting religious liberty.

Before joining FRC, Sarah was in-house counsel and director of development at a Baltimore advertising agency, overseeing all new business transactions from pitch to contract execution for the multimillion-dollar enterprise. She began her legal practice at the litigation firm of Simms Showers, LLP, where her work included Title VII employment discrimination, maritime/admiralty, and False Claims Act ("Qui Tam") law. Sarah has a law degree from the University of Virginia School of Law and holds a B.S. in Journalism with honors from Liberty University.

Sarah is a former Visitor of George Mason University, a current Trustee of Florida Gulf Coast University, and the Chair of the Federalist Society's Executive Committee on Education. Her commentary and analysis have appeared in media outlets across the country, including the AP, BBC, Fox News, NPR, The Hill, Washington Post, Washington Times, and the New York Times. She is the mother of three children and the author of just as many books on the trials and triumphs of parenting children on the autism spectrum.