

## James C. O'Brien

### Employment

- October 2023 – January 2025      **Assistant Secretary, Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, Department of State**
- April 2022 – October 2023      **Head, Office of Sanctions Coordination, Department of State**
- September 2001 – April 2022      **Albright Stonebridge Group (ASG), Vice Chair**  
**Principal, Albright Capital Management**
  - Member of management committees for both firms and investment committee of ACM.
  - ASG and ACM have global operations; several hundred staff (full and part-time); and substantial revenues and assets under management.
- 2015 – January 2017      **Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs**
  - Established office responsible for the return of approximately 100 US citizens from illegal detention.
  - Represented families and the US Government at most senior levels.
- 1989 - 2001      **U.S. Department of State**  
**Presidential Envoy for the Balkans (final position, 2000-01)**
  - Responsible for U.S. security, diplomatic, and economic policy, including toward the democratic transition in Serbia and only post-war non-nationalist government in Bosnia.
  - Managed more than \$500 million and posts in the United States and Europe.
  - Participated regularly in senior deliberations, including White House and National Security Council meetings of Principals and Deputies.

Also served as Principal Deputy Director of Policy Planning, Senior Adviser to the Secretary of State, Adviser to the US Permanent Representative to the United Nations, and Attorney-Adviser.
- 1988 – 1989      **U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit**      New Orleans, LA  
Law Clerk to Judge John Minor Wisdom
- 1986 – 1988      **Shea & Gardner, Covington & Burling, and**      Washington, DC  
**Public Citizen Litigation Group**  
Summer Associate

### Education

- 1988      **J.D., Yale Law School**  
New Haven, CT
  - Yale Law Journal, Book Review and Comment Editor.
  - Harlan Fiske Stone Prize Moot Court Finalist.
- 1985      **M.A., Rhetoric. University of Pittsburgh**      Pittsburgh, PA  
• Mellon Predoctoral Fellow.
- 1982      **B.A., Political Science. Macalester College**  
St. Paul, MN
  - Highest Honors, *magna cum laude*, Phi Beta Kappa.



## **Selected Academic Publications and Activities**

Member, Task Force on Prevention of Genocide, U.S. Holocaust Museum and U.S. Institute of Peace, 2011.

Adviser, Secretary General's Group of Experts on New Strategic Concept for NATO, 2009-10.

Member, Working Group on Genocide Prevention, Task Force on Prevention of Genocide, U.S. Holocaust Museum, 2008.

"The Dayton Agreement for Bosnia and Herzegovina: Durable Ceasefire, Permanent Negotiation," in Peace vs. Justice: Negotiating Forward- and Backward-Looking Outcomes, Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield (W. Zartmann ed. 2005).

"Lawyers, Guns, and Money: Warlords and Reconstruction After Iraq," 11 U.C. Davis Journal of International Law & Policy 98 (2004).

"The International Tribunal for Violations of international Humanitarian Law in the Former Yugoslavia," 87 American Journal of International Law 639 – 663 (1993) (cited by Tribunal trial court in Prosecutor v. Tadic, Decision on Jurisdiction, at paragraphs 16, 18 (Tribunal's first decision on scope of authority to try cases)).

"Legal Institutions and Limitations to Cognition and Power," 5 Social Epistemology 44 – 60 (1991).

"The Promise of Pico: A New Definition of Orthodoxy," 97 Yale Law Journal 1805 – 1825 (1988).

"A General Look at General Jurisdiction," 66 Texas Law Review 721 – 783 (1988) (one of six authors; author of section cited approvingly by U.S. Supreme Court).

Testified before Senate and House Committees. Regularly invited to speak at universities, think tanks, and media outlets.

Board of Directors, National Democratic Institute and various non-profit organizations.

Married with two children.