

SPENCER OVERTON

2000 H Street

Washington, DC 20052

(301) 502-9703

spenceroverton@gmail.com

www.SpencerOverton.com

@SpencerOverton

WORK EXPERIENCE

JOINT CENTER FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC STUDIES, Washington, DC. 2014-present. *President*. The Joint Center, founded in 1970, is America's Black think tank. Responsible for suspending operations and eliminating significant debt, restoring the organization's financial systems and fiscal health, overseeing a strategic planning process, identifying and recruiting top talent, establishing the organization as the "go to" think tank in key areas (e.g., congressional staff diversity, future of work and Black communities), and scaling the organization.

GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL, Washington, DC. 2002-present (on leave from 2009-2010). *Professor of Law*, tenured in 2004. Taught Race, Racism, and American Law; Civil Rights; Voting Rights; and Property.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, Washington, DC. *Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legal Policy*, 2009-2010 (see description above). The Office of Legal Policy is one of the Department's leadership components (along with the Offices of the Attorney General, Deputy Attorney General, Associate Attorney General, Solicitor General, Legal Counsel, Legislative Affairs, and Public Affairs). As the Department's "think tank," OLP coordinates various components within the Justice Department on policies, special projects, legislative testimony and public statements, and the development of new regulations. OLP also reviews and coordinates on proposed regulations, testimony, statements, and policies proposed by federal executive branch agencies outside of the Department. Further, OLP oversees the Department's process for vetting, selecting, interviewing, evaluating and seeking confirmation of the federal judiciary, in close consultation with the White House Counsel.

*As Principal Deputy, at beginning of Administration served as top political appointee, responsible for transition from the prior Administration. Managed three deputies, a chief of staff, and over 25 lawyers and staff. Actively recruited several attorneys, one of whom became the head of the office in 2012. Attended and participated in daily meeting of senior Department leadership with Attorney General. Mooted U.S. Supreme Court nominee Justice Sonia Sotomayor.

*Participated in weekly calls and regular meetings with the White House Domestic Policy Council on various issues. Coordinated with leadership from various agencies, including but not limited to the Departments of Defense, Health and Human Services, and Homeland Security.

*Worked with the Office of Legislative Affairs to meet with congressional Members and staff on various issues, including but not limited to those related to law enforcement, reentry, and civil rights.

*Co-chaired Attorney General's Reentry and Reducing Recidivism Issue Team, comprised of senior representatives from throughout the Department of Justice. Produced a 90-page report featuring 29 detailed proposals and options, including a Federal Interagency Reentry Council comprised of representatives from the Departments of Justice, Labor, Education, Health and Human Services, and Housing and Urban Development; specific proposals for data generation and evidence analysis; expanded educational programs and vocational training for inmates; and targeted study of federal

collateral consequences that may undermine recidivism reduction by obstructing education and employment. Many of the proposals have since been implemented.

*Partnered with White House officials to lead policy efforts on democracy issues, which included the Administration's response to the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* to allow unlimited corporate spending in federal elections, and conceptualizing and implementing policies related to the Voting Rights Act, the National Voter Registration Act, and the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act. Assisted then-Solicitor General Elena Kagan in preparation for her oral argument in *Citizens United*.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, KING HALL SCHOOL OF LAW, Davis, CA. *Acting Professor of Law*, 2000-2002. Taught Law and the Political Process, Legislation, and Property.

HARVARD LAW SCHOOL, Cambridge, MA. *Charles Hamilton Houston Fellow*, 1999-2000.

DEBEVOISE & PLIMPTON, Washington, DC. *Associate*, 1997-2000 (on leave from Feb 1999-Jan. 2000). Led teams of lawyers into American General Life Insurance Company (and its various subsidiaries across the nation) to evaluate and revise company policy regarding monitoring of agents, and worked with senior executives and other company employees to implement changes. On behalf of the Democratic National Committee, researched and drafted memoranda and managed document production in response to congressional and Department of Justice campaign finance investigations.

DICKINSON, WRIGHT, MOON, VAN DUSEN & FREEMAN, Detroit, MI. *Associate*, 1994-1996.

HONORABLE DAMON J. KEITH, U.S. COURT OF APPEALS, SIXTH CIRCUIT, Detroit, MI. *Judicial Clerk*, 1993-1994.

EDUCATION

HARVARD LAW SCHOOL, Cambridge, MA. J.D., *cum laude*, June 1993. Teaching Assistant, Professor Charles Ogletree.

HAMPTON UNIVERSITY, Hampton, VA. B.A. Mass Media/Journalism, highest honors (*summa cum laude*), May 1990. Varsity Golf; Editorial Page Editor, The Hampton Script.

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION

PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COMMISSION ON EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE FOR AFRICAN AMERICANS, Washington, DC. Commissioner, July 2014-January 2017.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, Washington, DC. *Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legal Policy*, 2009-2010 (see description above).

OBAMA-BIDEN TRANSITION TEAM, Washington, DC. *Election Assistance Commission Agency Review Team Lead, Federal Election Commission Agency Review Team Member, Technology, Innovation, and Government Reform Team Member, and Counsel in the Office of the General Counsel*, Sept. 2008-Jan. 2009.

ADDITIONAL BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

JIMMY CARTER-JAMES BAKER COMMISSION ON FEDERAL ELECTION REFORM, Washington, DC. *Commissioner*, May 2005-September 2005. Along with Commissioners Tom Daschle and Raul Yzaguirre, dissented from Commission's recommendation for a photo identification requirement to vote.

DNC COMMISSION ON PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION SCHEDULING AND TIMING, Washington, DC. *Commissioner*, February-December 2005. While serving on Commission, conceived of and drove ultimately successful effort to encourage Iowa's governor to restore voting rights to 98,000 citizens who had completed their sentences. Worked with co-chairs Alexis Herman and David Price to successively move two diverse states (South Carolina and Nevada) to the front of the presidential primary schedule to join Iowa and New Hampshire.

AMERICAN CONSTITUTION SOCIETY, Washington, DC. *Board of Directors Member*, Jan. 2006-Jan. 2009.

CENTER FOR RESPONSIVE POLITICS, Washington, DC. *Board Member*, June 2003-April 2007.

COMMON CAUSE, Washington, DC. *National Governing Board Member*, Mar. 2003-Nov. 2007.

DEMOS: A NETWORK OF IDEAS AND ACTION, New York City, NY. *Board of Trustees Member*, Feb. 2006-Jan. 2009.

U.S. ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION, Washington, DC. *Advisory Board Member*, July 2006-June 2009.

SIGMA PI PHI FRATERNITY (the Boulé), 2011-present. Chair, Public Policy Committee of the Executive Committee (national) (2014-2016).

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Evaluating African American Outcomes to Improve Workforce Training Programs. Washington, DC: Joint Center, 2020 (co-authored with Harin Contractor) (forthcoming).

State Power to Regulate Social Media Companies to Prevent Voter Suppression, 53 U.C. Davis Law Review 1793 (2020)

An Introduction to the Future of Work in the Black Rural South. Washington, DC: Joint Center, 2019 (co-authored with Harin Contractor).

Policies to Help Black & Latino Businesses Use Mobile Apps to Grow. Washington, DC: Joint Center, 2019 (co-authored with Amanda Anthony).

Racial Diversity Among Top House Staff. Washington, DC: Joint Center, 2018 (co-authored with Elsie L. Scott, PhD, Karra W. McCray, Donald Bell).

Racial Diversity Among Top Staff of Congressional Delegations of DE, MD, MS, PA, TN, and VA. Washington, DC: Joint Center, 2018 (co-authored these six reports with Karra W. McCray and Donald Bell).

5G, Smart Cities & Communities of Color. Washington, DC: Joint Center, 2017 (co-authored with Yosef Getachew and Alejandra Montoya-Boyer).

The Impact of Automation on Black Jobs. Washington, DC: Joint Center, 2017.

Engaging Communities in Reducing Gun Violence. Washington, DC: Urban Institute, 2016 (co-authored with Sam Bieler, Kilolo Kijakazi,, Nancy La Vigne, Nina Vinik).

Voting Rights Disclosure, 127 Harvard Law Review Forum 19 (2013).

Matching Political Contributions, 96 Minnesota Law Review 1694 (2012).

The Participation Interest, 100 Georgetown Law Journal 1259 (2012).

Voter Identification, 105 Michigan Law Review 631 (2007).

Stealing Democracy: The New Politics of Voter Suppression. New York: Norton, 2006 (book).

“*The Coverage Curve: Identifying States at the Bottom of the Class*,” in *The Future of the Voting Rights Act*, Edited by David Epstein, et al. New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2006.

The Donor Class: Campaign Finance, Democracy, and Participation, 153 University of Pennsylvania Law Review 73 (2004).

A Place at the Table: Bush v. Gore through the Lens of Race, 29 Florida State Law Review 469 (2002).

But Some are More Equal: Race, Exclusion, and Campaign Finance, 80 Texas Law Review 987 (2002).

Racial Disparities and the Political Function of Property, 49 UCLA Law Review 1553 (2002).

Rules, Standards, and Bush v. Gore: Form and the Law of Democracy, 37 Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review 65 (2002).

Voices from the Past: Race, Privilege, and Campaign Finance, 79 North Carolina Law Review 1541 (2001).