

FRANCELLA OCHILLO

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Executive Director | Next Century Cities | July 2019 – Present

- Serve as chief executive officer of a nonprofit that works to expand affordable and reliable high-speed connectivity in communities nationwide. Provide subject-matter expertise on digital infrastructure, broadband access, broadband adoption, digital equity, and privacy issues.
- Support mayors and other local officials working to expand digital infrastructure and increase broadband adoption, especially those with unserved and underserved populations.
- Set and execute the overall strategy for local, state, and federal policy portfolios as well as membership engagement.
- Meet with elected and appointed officials at all three levels of government, including members of Congress and agency officials, to evaluate policy proposals that could address the digital divide and create new digital opportunities.
- Conceptualize and lead research, conference presentations, webinars, city-to-city learning events, policymaker education, resource creation and curation, and advocacy campaigns.
- Develop organizational media strategy, identifying and executing press opportunities. Highlight narratives that focus on local connectivity initiatives and build awareness about the need to invest in digital infrastructure.
- Work closely with an advisory board made up of municipal leaders from geographically and demographically diverse cities and counties across the U.S.
- Lead day to day operations and all fundraising efforts. Increased philanthropic support by 40% in 2020.

Vice President of Policy & General Counsel | National Hispanic Media Coalition | August 2018 – July 2019

- Serve as legal advisor to the CEO, Board of Directors, and management team. Responsible for highlighting key policy issues and regulatory landscape.
- Develop and lead strategy on all technology policy work which includes expanding digital access, regulating the digital ecosystem, developing data privacy regulations, improving platform accountability, and increasing diversity.
- Track policy proposals from federal government agencies including the FCC, FTC, and NTIA as well as legislative proposals from Congress.
- Provide subject-matter expertise and draft public comments analyzing the impact of telecommunications policy proposals on underrepresented communities. Create advocacy materials to support those positions.
- Work with tech platforms to improve content moderation policies, data sharing models, and digital advertising practices. Identify harms associated with algorithmic bias and online surveillance.
- Serve as an organizational spokesperson, engaging directly with policymakers, lawmakers, and industry partners to promote NHMC's policy priorities.
- Design outreach strategy that positions NHMC as a thought leader among regulators, lawmakers, public interest groups, think tanks, and government accountability organizations.
- Supervise policy counsel, consultants, work with external counsel, and three tech policy fellowship programs.

Director, Government & Legal Affairs | National Hispanic Media Coalition | April 2017 – August 2018

- Provided legal counsel, drafted filings, and educated government agency officials on telecommunication policies such as net neutrality, expanding digital access, improving media diversity, and eliminating hate speech online.
- Designed NHMC's Congressional outreach strategy, identifying and developing relationships with key legislators to support NHMC's goals.
- Developed outreach materials that explain Federal Communications Commission and Federal Trade Commission's proposals.
- Attracted additional grant funding and submitted grant reports to document advocacy accomplishments.

- Represented NHMC at conferences, with elected officials, and in coalitions with activists, academia, corporate interest groups, and organizational allies.

Attorney Analyst | Department of Justice (Contractor), Civil Division, Fraud Section | June 2013 – April 2017

- Executed various aspects of banking and securities fraud investigations governed by the False Claims Act and Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act.
- Examined corporate practices used to sell residential mortgage-backed securities to federally insured financial institutions.
- Analyzed due diligence procedures, risk assessment protocols, and marketing materials to identify misrepresentations in how securities were packaged and sold.
- Supported trial counsel by responding to requests for legal analysis, drafting legal memoranda, summarizing facts, securing evidence, helping select witnesses, traveling to assist in depositions, and participating in conferences with opposing counsel.

Contract Attorney | Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom LLP, Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP, Covington & Burling LLP | August 2012 – June 2013

- Managed discovery requests in anti-trust, patent infringement, and banking regulatory matters.
- Conducted quality control reviews of relevance and privilege claims.
- Monitored workflow and conducted progress reports on document review pace.
- Submitted written assessments of contract attorneys, making performance evaluations to associates.

Contract Attorney & Team Lead | Cleary Gottlieb LLP | March 2011 – May 2012

- Served in various leadership roles assigned to production quality control and joint defense review projects.
- Partnered with staff attorneys to prepare documents for civil litigation discovery requests and related regulatory matters.
- Researched specific allegations of misconduct and summarized conclusions for trial counsel.

Contract Attorney & Team Lead | O'Melveny & Myers LLP | October 2007 – February 2011

- Worked on a broad range of discovery assignments involving allegations of mortgage-backed securities fraud. Partnered with staff attorneys to develop coding protocol and quality controls used to produce documents to opposing counsel and regulatory agencies, ensuring compliance with subpoena requests.
- Collected evidence for US Senate hearings and SEC administrative proceedings.
- Trained contract attorneys on how to use electronic discovery platforms to conduct searches and generate reports. Managed several litigation projects with concurrent deadlines.

HONORS & MEMBERSHIPS

- Inaugural Member, MOSAIC Economic Project's Women Changing Policy Program, Progressive Policy Institute
- Volunteer, President Joseph Biden's Campaign Innovation Policy Committee and Broadband, Telecommunications & Digital Equity 100 Day Subcommittee
- Representative, Federal Communications Commission's Consumer Advisory Committee and Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee's COVID-19 Disaster Response and Recovery Workgroup
- Expert, Washington Post's Technology 202 Network
- Member, District of Columbia Bar and Federal Communications Bar Association

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- *How Local Leaders Are Expanding Broadband Access: Francella Ochillo of Next Century Cities discusses the role of community officials in expanding high-speed, reliable internet* (January 19, 2021)
- *The Enormous Cost of Digital Inequality* (November 4, 2020)
- *Universal connectivity is still the goal. We need to keep working on long-term solutions.* (March 30, 2020)

EDUCATION

Juris Doctor, John Marshall Law School, Chicago, Illinois, May 2007

Bachelor of Science, Marketing, Morgan State University, Baltimore, Maryland, May 2000