

Biography: Marc Berkman

Marc Berkman co-founded and serves as the CEO of the Organization for Social Media Safety (OFSMS), which he has grown into the world's preeminent consumer protection organization focused on social media. Under Marc's leadership, OFSMS has developed a state-of-the-art social media safety curriculum and has taught essential safety skills to hundreds of thousands of students, parents, and educators across the world. Marc has also guided OFSMS' advocacy efforts leading to the passage of groundbreaking social media safety legislation like Jordan's Law, the nation's first law to deter social media-motivated violence. And Marc has spearheaded major partnerships between OFSMS and prestigious non-governmental organizations, including ones with DARE: International to expand access to social media safety education and with U.C.L.A. to undertake innovative social media safety research.

Previously, Marc served for over a decade as a senior advisor to members of the United States Congress and the California State Assembly. During his time as a legislative aide, he developed and helped pass into law numerous legislative initiatives to protect vulnerable children and families. He successfully led negotiations with the Department of Education to reinterpret Title VI of the Civil Rights Act to protect Jewish students from harassment and discrimination. Marc also previously served as the Executive Director of FosterEd: Los Angeles, an initiative to improve educational outcomes among Los Angeles' foster youth.

Marc has been featured in notable publications like the Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, and Business Insider. Marc received his Juris Doctor from Columbia Law School as a Fiske Stone Scholar and his Bachelor of Arts from UC Berkeley with high honors. He lives with his wife and two children in Los Angeles, CA.

MARC BERKMAN

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

ORGANIZATION FOR SOCIAL MEDIA SAFETY, Los Angeles, CA

Executive Director, 2018 to present

Founded and direct the nation's first nonprofit organization focused exclusively on making social media safe for everyone. Through innovative educational programming, advocacy, research and technology development, the Organization for Social Media Safety works to combat social media-related dangers, including cyberbullying, violence, hate, trafficking, among others.

OFFICE OF CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLYMEMBER, Los Angeles, CA

District Chief of Staff, 2015 to 2018

Oversaw district office operations. Managed a staff of five. Advised the Assemblymember on legislative issues including child welfare, taxation, education, and civil rights. Developed and marketed legislative initiatives. Drafted opinion-editorials. Communicated with key elected officials, organizations, and constituents.

Key Contributions:

- Conceived, drafted and marketed the nation's first law to combat social media-motivated violence (Jordan's Law); spoke on record with ABC and NBC; legislation featured on the front page of the New York Times; published opinion-editorial in the LA Daily News.
- Conceived, drafted, and marketed legislation (AB 1375) to improve the process of placing special needs foster youth; legislation passed the California State Assembly.

NATIONAL CENTER FOR YOUTH LAW'S FOSTER-ED: LOS ANGELES, Los Angeles, CA

Director, 2014

Directed and implemented all components of the Los Angeles County work of FosterEd, a short-term national initiative to improve the educational outcomes of foster youth. Hired and supervised project staff. Collaborated with partner agencies, including the Los Angeles County Office of Education and the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services to develop educational programs for foster youth. Advocated in the California State Legislature for legislation to improve the educational outcomes of foster youth.

Key Contributions:

- Drafted a comprehensive report analyzing the operations of the Department of Children and Family Services' Education Consultant Program and provided recommendations for significantly refocusing the program, which were accepted by the Department.

OFFICE OF MEMBER OF CONGRESS, Washington, DC

Legislative Director & Counsel, 2011 to 2013

As the principal legislative advisor, supervised a legislative staff of seven. Directed and oversaw development of all legislative drafts, policy analyses / recommendations, memoranda, speeches, and correspondence. Provided ongoing staff training, coaching, mentoring, performance assessment, and professional development. Personally managed a legislative portfolio that included commerce, taxation, financial services, healthcare, judiciary, and government reform issues. Communicated extensively with Congressional members, other government officials, corporate / non-profit organizations, and the public; responded to policy inquiries and promoted key legislative initiatives.

Key Contributions:

Continued...

- Revamped the processes for analyzing and developing new legislation, substantially improving quality and quantity of newly proposed legislation and resulting in 20+ new bills which garnered bipartisan and broad organizational support.

OFFICE OF MEMBER OF CONGRESS, Washington, DC

Chief Counsel, 2009 to 2011 | **Counsel**, 2007 to 2009

Supervised the legal work of the three attorneys on staff and legal interns. Provided legal opinions for prospective legislation and policies. Managed a legislative portfolio that included commerce, taxation, budget, financial services, judiciary, child welfare, and government reform issues. Drafted issue memoranda, op-eds, speeches, and correspondence. Communicated with key officials, corporate / non-profit organizations, and constituents.

Key Contributions:

- Advised the Congressman on judiciary issues during his tenure on the House Judiciary Committee, including the Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law, the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties, and the Subcommittee on Courts and Competition Policy.
- Authored op-eds for publication in national media, such as *Wall Street Journal* and *Christian Science Monitor*.
- Drafted provisions of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, including credit rating agency restrictions and Federal Reserve System lending limitations.
- Successfully led the negotiation with the Department of Education to reinterpret Title VI of the Civil Rights Act to protect Jewish students from harassment and discrimination.

RICHARDS KIBBE & ORBE LLP, Washington, DC | CLIFFORD CHANCE US LLP, New York, New York

Associate, 2004 to 2007

Represented corporate clients, providing high-caliber legal research, advising on and analyzing corporate operations, and facilitating major corporate transactions. With Richards Kibbe & Orbe, drafted and reviewed motions and memoranda for litigation. Conducted corporate investigations, managing teams of contracted attorneys and paralegals. With Clifford Chance, provided legal advice for security offerings, mergers and acquisitions (M&A), and credit agreements. Developed recommendations on US tax law issues, including non-profit compliance.

EDUCATION AND CREDENTIALS

Juris Doctor, 2004

COLUMBIA LAW SCHOOL – New York, New York

Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar; Participant, Columbia Journal of Law & Social Problems, Child Advocacy Clinic, and Youth Educational Advocacy Program

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, 2000

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT BERKELEY – Berkeley, California

Distinction in General Scholarship (equivalent to cum laude); Dean's List; Founding Member, Student Advisory Committee for the City Council of Berkeley

Bar Admission: Admitted to Practice Law in New York (2005) and District of Columbia (2007)