

MELISSA WASSER

Washington, D.C.

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EXPERIENCE

Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, Washington, D.C.

September 2018 – Present

Policy Analyst

- Monitor legislation and policy developments on press freedom and government transparency issues, including increasing court access, freedom of information laws, and media source protection laws
- Write and create online content about RCFP policy and litigation efforts and highlight the organization's potential impact on press freedom and open government topics
- Lead meetings and advocacy efforts around increased court access, FOIA reform, reporter-source confidentiality laws, and anti-SLAPP laws at both the federal and state levels

American Constitution Society for Law and Policy, Washington, D.C.

August 2017 – August 2018

Law Fellow

- Researched legal topics including redistricting, judicial nominations, and civil rights for the Department of Policy and Program
- Provided citations and edited ACS "issue briefs" and the 2017 *Supreme Court Review Journal*, which surveyed all U.S. Supreme Court decisions from the 2017 term

Ohio House of Representatives, Columbus, OH

January 2017 – April 2017

Legal Extern, Ohio House Democratic Caucus

- Wrote memos for Caucus Legal Counsel on mandatory minimum sentencing requirements, automatic voter registration, and increasing the state minimum wage in Ohio
- Researched and analyzed proposed bills by the Democratic Caucus

Human Rights Campaign, Washington, D.C.

June 2016 – August 2016

McCleary Law Fellow

- Researched federal, state, and local laws to prepare the Municipal Equality Index (MEI) and the State Equality Index (SEI) for publication (the only nationwide rating system of LGBTQ+ inclusion in municipal and state law)
- Analyzed and drafted a memorandum on gun reform policies for HRC and its partner organizations

EDUCATION

The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH

J.D. & M.A. in Public Policy and Management, May 2017

Honors: Michael E. Moritz Leadership Award in Law, 2015–2016 (highest leadership award for a Moritz student)

Publications: *Legal Discrimination: Bridging the Title VII Gap for Transgender Employees*, 77 OHIO ST. L.J. 1109 (2016)
License to Discriminate: A Comparative Analysis of the Effectiveness of State LGBTQ Nondiscrimination Laws in Employment (Thesis)

Activities: *Ohio State Law Journal* (law review), Technology Editor; American Constitution Society, President; Black Law Students Association, Parliamentarian (communications and social media director)

Youngstown State University, Youngstown, OH

B.A. in Philosophy and Political Science, *summa cum laude*, May 2014

Honors: Leslie H. Cochran University Scholars Program (full-tuition academic scholarship); YSU Pin Award Recipient, 2014 (highest leadership award for an undergraduate student)

Activities: Youngstown State University Board of Trustees, Student Trustee (appointed by Governor John R. Kasich); Delta Zeta Sorority, President; Youngstown State University Homecoming Queen, 2013

INTERESTS

Watching documentaries, *Saturday Night Live*, and the Ohio State Buckeyes. Bowling – bowled perfect game (300).