

MELISSA WASSER

EXPERIENCE

Project On Government Oversight (POGO), Washington, D.C. January 2021 – Present

Policy Counsel

- Provide legal support and guidance to the policy team while handling an issue portfolio of whistleblower reform, FOIA, court access, and OLC transparency
- Organizes and executes advocacy campaigns on Capitol Hill based on POGO's policy recommendations
- Drafts model legislative text, hearing questions, blog posts, oversight letters, agency public comments, congressional testimony, op-eds, and other articles across a broad range of good government policy areas

Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, Washington, D.C. September 2018 – January 2021

Policy Analyst (RCFP) & Coalition Director (NMOG)

- Conducted legal analysis on pending legislation to establish RCFP policy and advocacy priorities, including increasing court access, freedom of information laws, and media source protection laws
- Drafted testimony, letters for congressional and state legislative hearings, and agency public comments
- Led federal advocacy efforts and maintained relationships with bipartisan allies for RCFP and the News Media for Open Government (NMOG) coalition, comprised of 10 national media transparency groups

American Constitution Society for Law and Policy, Washington, D.C. August 2017 – August 2018

Law Fellow

- 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 proposed legislation, including mandatory minimum sentencing requirements, automatic voter registration, and increasing the state minimum wage in Ohio

Human Rights Campaign, Washington, D.C. June 2016 – August 2016

McCleary Law Fellow

- Prepared the 2016 Municipal Equality Index and the State Equality Index, the only nationwide rating system of LGBTQ+ inclusive laws, for publication by researching state and local policies and laws

EDUCATION

The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH May 2017

J.D. & M.A. in Public Policy and Management

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 (2017) [Master's 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 May 2014

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

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).