

ETHAN CORSON

7340 Cherokee Dr., Prairie Village, KS 66208

(314) 324-5405 • ethancorson@gmail.com

OVERVIEW

Kansas City native who recently moved home after spending nearly a decade in Washington, D.C. working at the highest levels of government, law, and politics. Executive and attorney experienced in strategy, operations, management, and law. Appointed by President Obama to two Senior Executive positions at the U.S. Department of Commerce. Looking for my next leadership opportunity. Hold a J.D. from Washington University in St. Louis School of Law and a B.S. from Washington University in St. Louis.

EXPERIENCE

U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C.

Chief of Staff, International Trade Administration, September 2016 – January 20, 2017

Core Skills: Building and leading teams; Strategic planning; Operations; Project management; Budget oversight

Specific Duties: Help lead a bureau of over 2,200 professionals in 78 countries and 108 U.S. cities with a FY'16 budget of \$483 million to strengthen the competitiveness of U.S. industry through commercial policy, trade promotion, attracting foreign direct investment, removing trade barriers, ensuring fair trade through the rigorous enforcement of our trade laws and agreements, and working with foreign governments to develop business-friendly policies on issues like trade, standards, and regulatory coherence. Advise the Under Secretary on all aspects of bureau leadership, including operations, trade and export promotion policy formulation, budget, long-term planning, and human resources.

Director, Office of the Executive Secretariat, May 2015 – September 2016

Core Skills: Change management; Process improvement; Building and leading teams; Upgrading technology tools

Specific Duties: Functioned as Chief Operating Officer of the Secretary of Commerce's 82-person office, with direct oversight over procurement, contracting, budget, human resources, records management, correspondence, travel, property, and briefing book teams. As a member of her core senior leadership team, served as a Senior Advisor to the Secretary on all aspects of the department's *Open for Business Agenda*, which focuses on trade and investment, innovation, data, environment, and operational excellence.

- Managed \$13.7 million budget and 17 employees.
- Restructured office to create a team dedicated to the Secretary's briefing papers, which reduced the volume of briefing material by 50% and dramatically improved quality. Changes included a new staffing model, new briefing paper templates, page limits, detailed guidance and training materials, a series of in-person trainings with memo drafters, and construction of a dedicated briefing book space.
- Spearheaded effort to achieve a virtually paperless briefing book process that allowed the Secretary to read all of her materials on her iPad; system became a model for other offices in the Department.
- Served as the Secretary's primary liaison to the White House and National Security Council for all Principals and Deputies Committee meetings. Handled receipt, storage, distribution, and transmission of all classified materials.
- Managed deadlines, and edited for style, tone, and content, the Secretary's briefing materials for 23 international trips and 63 domestic trips.

Arnold & Porter LLP, Washington, D.C.

Litigation Associate, September 2008 – March 2012; December 2012 – May 2015

Core Skills: Present clearly and precisely on complex topics both orally and in writing; Strong attention to detail; Exceptional organization and time management; Comfort handling high-stakes negotiations; Conduct rigorous research and analysis; Manage multiple and competing deadlines

Specific duties: Practice focused on federal and state litigation, administrative proceedings, internal investigations, and audits. Represented clients on a wide range of matters involving banking and financial services, securities, pharmaceutical mass torts, breach of contract, employment discrimination, and products liability cases.

- Selected as a 2015 Washington, D.C. Rising Star by Super Lawyers, a national rating service of outstanding lawyers.
- Examined multiple witnesses in federal court trial, participated in hearings, negotiated with federal financial regulators, prepared fact and expert witnesses for deposition and trial, drafted cross-examination of expert witness, conducted witness interviews, and managed discovery.

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- Researched and drafted a broad array of motions, briefs, complaints, answers, memoranda of law, appeals, pleadings, affidavits, and legal opinion letters.
- Participated in all phases – pre-trial, trial, and appellate, including filings with U.S. Supreme Court – of challenge to Wisconsin’s photo ID law under the U.S. Constitution and Voting Rights Act.
- Acted as lead counsel in three criminal cases in D.C. Superior Court from first appearance to sentencing.

Obama - Biden campaign, Madison, WI

Deputy Voter Protection Director – Wisconsin, March 2012 – November 2012

Core Skills: Building and leading teams; Strategic planning; Community engagement and organizing; Volunteer recruitment and training

Specific Duties: With Voter Protection Director, developed statewide voter protection plan, the successful execution of which resulted in a program vastly exceeding already ambitious goal in terms of attorneys recruited, trained, and organized to serve as poll monitors – 1,000 for November presidential election and over 500 for June gubernatorial recall election. Led voter protection effort in Wisconsin’s second most populous county. Organized and managed 18-attorney Election Day boiler room.

U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill (D-MO), Washington, D.C.

Legal Fellow, Spring 2008

Wagstaff & Cartmell LLP, Kansas City, MO

Summer Associate, Summer 2006

Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, Kansas City, MO

Summer Associate, Summer 2005

EDUCATION

Washington University in St. Louis School of Law

Juris Doctor, *cum laude*, 2008

Honors & Activities: *Global Studies Law Review*, Associate Editor; Honor Scholar 2006-07 & 2007-08 (top 10% of class); Judge John W. Calhoun Award for Excellence in Trial Practice; Dean’s List

Washington University in St. Louis

Bachelor of Science in Political Science and Communications & Journalism, with Honors, 2005

Honors & Activities: Varsity Baseball; Dean’s List; Dean’s Scholarship; Big Brothers Big Sisters