

# DONNA L. WHITMAN



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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**Regulatory Affairs Executive and Policy Attorney with 20+ years of experience architecting transformative laws, regulations, and public-private initiatives that strengthen compliance, modernize infrastructure, and advance equity across public institutions and all levels of government.**

- **Championed a \$1B Education Infrastructure Initiative:** Served as legal architect for Prince George's County's Public-Private Partnership (P3) School Infrastructure Program (the first of its kind in the nation), accelerating delivery of 6 new schools for 10,400 students, expanding capacity by 5,545 seats and delivering the new schools 16 years faster than traditional models.
- **Rebuilt the Policy Framework for D.C. Public Schools:** Authored and codified all education policies under DC Code Title V and DCMR, led one of the largest Title IX investigations in U.S. Department of Education history, and achieved a 90% litigation success rate, establishing DCPS as a national model for compliance and equity reform.
- **Shaped Next Generation of Education Leaders:** As an Adjunct Professor at Howard University for 15+ years, trained and mentored 250+ school leaders including superintendents, chancellors, and education executives whose policy work has improved equity, governance, and outcomes across major school systems nationwide.

## KEY SKILLS & COMPETENCIES

Regulatory Strategy | Legislative Drafting | Public Policy Development | Government Relations | Compliance & Risk Management | Education Law | Public-Private Partnerships (P3) | Equity & Inclusion Strategy | Legal Advisory | Strategic Planning | Policy Implementation | Stakeholder Engagement | Program Oversight | Institutional Governance | Infrastructure Modernization

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### HOWARD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF EDUCATION – WASHINGTON, D.C.

**Adjunct Professor/Lecturer, Department of Educational Leadership & Policy**

**2011 – Current**

- Deliver graduate- and doctoral-level instruction in Education Law and Public Policy, training and mentoring 250+ education leaders including current Superintendents, Chief Education Officers, and Chancellors who lead or have led major districts such as Maryland State Board of Education, Calvert County Public Schools, Prince George's County Public Schools and Hartford Public Schools.
- Serve as faculty and policy advisor for national leadership initiatives like The Wallace Foundation's Equity-Centered Pipeline Initiative and EAGLE III, delivering legal and regulatory guidance that strengthens leadership pipelines in urban school systems nationwide.
- Provide legal and strategic consultation to university's leadership, including advising on \$100M renovation of historic Minor Building, ensuring ADA compliance, student safety, and operational integrity during integration of middle school and graduate programs.
- Recognized for designing and leading the Equity-Centered Policy Project, guiding students to develop and present original white papers and legislative proposals addressing equity, digital access, and student achievement to volunteer local and state education boards.
- Reappointed for 15 consecutive years, a distinction achieved by less than 5% of adjunct faculty, reflecting sustained excellence, national influence, and long-term contribution to the field of education policy.

### PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL – LARGO, MD

**Legislative Officer**

**2020 – 2024**

- Served as chief drafter and legal strategist for over 25 bills and resolutions, advancing groundbreaking legislation in public safety, education, and equity while driving the County's most progressive policy era in recent history.
- Authored Law Enforcement Accountability Act (local implementation of federal George Floyd Justice in Policing Act), developing a Police Accountability Board that launched 104 independent investigations in year 1 and redefined community oversight standards.
- Designed and enacted the Private Security Camera Incentive Program and Code Adam Bill, expanding crime-prevention infrastructure across hundreds of high-crime zones and institutionalizing child protection protocols in all county facilities.
- Served as legal architect for a \$1B Public-Private Partnership (P3) School Infrastructure Initiative, engaging State and Local decision-makers, saving more than \$235M in deferred maintenance costs, and delivering results 16 years faster than traditional methods.
- Oversaw and negotiated legal review of 9 RFQs and 10 RFPs, ensuring fiscal accountability, compliance, and transparency across state, county, and private partners; simultaneously managed \$450K in community grants, approving 100+ nonprofit proposals.
- Authored high-profile social impact resolutions such as Human Trafficking Awareness, Disability Employment, Domestic Violence Awareness, and the Responsible Legacy Task Force Report, creating the County's first naming and memorial governance framework.

## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS – WASHINGTON, D.C.

### Supervisory Attorney General / Policy Attorney

2004 – 2014

- Provided comprehensive legal counsel to both the Local Education Agency (LEA) and State Education Agency (SEA), ensuring districtwide alignment with federal and state education mandates and advancing compliance across all DCPS departments.
- Authored, codified, and modernized all education policies and regulations within DC Code Title V and DCMR, including full districtwide rewrite of education regulations preceding the 2007 Education Reform Act, creating a unified legal and governance framework.
- Led one of the largest Title IX investigations in U.S. Department of Education history, resulting in sweeping compliance reforms, stronger student protections, and the institutionalization of equitable practices districtwide.
- Drafted and introduced core DCPS policies, including Special Education, Residency and Attendance, Student Rights & Responsibilities, Bullying Prevention, and Section 504, building foundation for consistent regulatory compliance and equitable student treatment.
- Represented DCPS in administrative hearings and court litigation, achieving a 90% success rate in cases spanning education, employment, civil rights, and student discipline while ensuring adherence to FCC, ADA, FERPA, CIPA, COPPA, and FOIA standards.
- Oversaw legal strategy for school construction, procurement, real estate, and risk management, and trained attorneys and education leaders on compliance, legal ethics, and policy implementation, ensuring operational accountability post-education reform.

## PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY OFFICE OF LAW – UPPER MARLBORO, MD

### Associate County Attorney

1998 – 2003

- Drafted legislation governing HUD Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) allocations, ensuring compliant and strategic investment in housing, infrastructure, and urban renewal across Prince George's County.
- Authored the County's 5-Year Strategic Development Plan, integrating housing, education, and community revitalization goals to drive equitable growth and resource distribution.
- Served on the School Construction Committee, overseeing the planning, budgeting, and execution of multi-million-dollar capital projects that expanded and modernized K–12 education facilities.
- Negotiated and drafted the first Community Park School MOU, establishing a model for dual-use facilities that unified educational, recreational, and senior services under one public infrastructure framework.
- Represented Family Services, Social Services, and Human Rights Departments in cases involving child welfare, adoption, and EEO compliance, achieving a 100% success rate in ADA and Title VII cases before the Prince George's County Human Rights Commission.
- Litigated high-stakes drug forfeiture and subrogation cases, securing favorable rulings that protected County assets and reinforced financial accountability across government operations.

## EARLY CAREER HISTORY

**Judicial Clerk**, *Maryland Court of Appeals* --- *Ret. Chief Judge Robert M. Bell*

**Senior Claims Adjuster**, *Texas Municipal League Intergovernmental Risk Pool*

## BOARD & COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

**Board Member**, *Protect, Prevent, Empower Kids (PPE KIDS)* – Draft national child protection training manuals and provide legal counsel on child abuse prevention and Board Governance.

**Advisory Board Member**, *The Urban Bloom Project* – Support policy-based grant development for community education initiatives.

**Founder**, *The Generosity Project*, St. Paul Church – Lead outreach and youth empowerment initiatives in the DMV communities.

**Member**, *Friends of the Chapel*, *Howard University Rankin Chapel* – Facilitate worship opportunities and lead faith-based and/or community service programs for Howard University students.

## EDUCATION & BAR ADMISSIONS

**Juris Doctor (J.D.)** – *Howard University School of Law, Washington, D.C.*

Howard Law Journal, Write-On Selection

**Master of Theology (M.Th.)** – *Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX*

**Bachelor of Arts (B.A.), Cum Laude** – *Howard University, College of Arts & Sciences, Washington, D.C.*

**Bar Admissions:** *State of Maryland | Maryland Federal District Court | District of Columbia*