

DAWN L. SMALLS, Partner

Ms. Smalls is an accomplished leader with experience in law, politics, government and philanthropy. Her clients benefit from her strategic advice and legal counsel on complex legal, policy, and regulatory matters. Smalls' service in two presidential administrations gives her unique insight into government and politics. Smalls recently served as the Monitor of a tier-one global financial institution having been appointed to that position by the New York State Department of Financial Services.

Smalls is a strategic advisor and multi-disciplinary leader with experience across law, government, politics, and philanthropy. Her clients turn to her for her independent sensibility and her trusted and strategic advice. In 2021, Smalls was named to the [inaugural edition of "Northeast Trailblazers" by the American Lawyer](#), and recognized by [Crain's New York Business as a "Notable Women in Law"](#), the National Black Lawyers as one of their Top 100 lawyers, and the Legal 500 in Corporate Investigations and White-Collar Criminal Defense. Smalls was featured as a ["Power Player" in government and politics by City & State New York and the Amsterdam News in 2020](#).

In her private practice, she has fought for undocumented immigrants, victims of financial crime, and voters facing intimidation. Smalls litigates high-stakes matters, successfully securing two TROs, [one against the Trump Campaign](#) and one in 2021 [against the City of New York](#). Previous representations include serving as co-lead counsel for [one of the largest Fair Labor Standards Act class actions on record](#), representing more than 90,000 au pairs for wage fixing and violations of federal, state and minimum wage. She also served as counsel for the class of investors in two of the largest "feeder funds" that financed Bernard Madoff's Ponzi scheme.

Her knowledge of the intersection of law and politics comes from serving, first, in the Clinton Administration as assistant to the White House Chief of Staff and as a liaison on policy and budget issues for the District of Columbia, and the Chief Regulatory Officer at the Department of Health and Human Services in the Obama Administration. In the 2008 election cycle, Dawn served as a regional political director for the Hillary Clinton for President Campaign, covering six states, and in the general election as the New York political director for then-Sen. Barack Obama.

In addition to her private practice, Ms. Smalls is a recognized civic leader. She serves on the board of the Roosevelt Institute, a think tank and campus network that serves as the non-profit partner to the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum in Hyde Park, New York. She also serves on the Board of the Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture, a non-profit farm and educational center whose mission is to shape an ecological food culture that centers farmers and their stewardship of the land to amplify their success. Previously, Smalls served on the Board of the American Constitution Society, the nation's leading progressive legal organization, from 2015 – 2021.

As a commissioner of the New York State Joint Commission on Public Ethics, Smalls provided oversight to the state agency tasked with ensuring that state elected officials and lobbyists comply with the state's ethics and lobbying laws



DAWN L. SMALLS Partner

NEW YORK

Office: 212 891-1639

Email: dsmalls@jenner.com

PRACTICE GROUPS

Complex Commercial Litigation
Culture Risk and Sensitive Investigations
Government Controversies and Public Policy Litigation
Investigations, Compliance and Defense
Monitorship Practice

EDUCATION

Stanford Law School, JD

Boston University, BA, Linguistics with minors in Italian and Political Science; *magnum cum laude*

ADMISSIONS

Massachusetts

New York

COURT ADMISSIONS

US Court of Appeals, First Circuit

US Court of Appeals, Second Circuit

US Court of Appeals, Tenth Circuit

US District Court, Southern District of New York

US District Court, Eastern District of New York

US District Court, District of Massachusetts

US District Court, District of Colorado

US Supreme Court

and regulations. Previously, Ms. Smalls served as the Secretary of the New York City Bar's Ethics Committee.

Ms. Smalls also worked for the Open Society Foundations and the Ford Foundation, two of the largest philanthropies in the world, managing approximately \$40 million of grants promoting and increasing civic engagement, political reform, and grassroots activism. Ms. Smalls is actively engaged in politics, advising candidates on the local, state and federal level.

Representative matters include:

- Monitorship of a tier-one global financial institution;
- A class action seeking safe shelter during the course of the pandemic for a class of single adult New Yorkers who are experiencing homelessness;
- A financial institution in the preparation of an incident response plan in the event of a cyberattack;
- Barclays Capital in its defense against a \$13 billion claim by the Lehman Brothers bankruptcy estate and creditors committee;
- Investors in two of the largest "feeder funds" that financed Bernard Madoff's massive Ponzi scheme;
- Maurice R. "Hank" Greenberg and the CV Starr Companies in connection with various regulatory and civil litigations, including claims brought by American International Group seeking control of Starr's board of directors and billions of dollars of Starr's assets;
- The largest entertainment company in Latin America in a tortious interference lawsuit against a United States Spanish-language television company;
- A major Mexican beverage distributor in an action alleging violation of its minority shareholder rights;
- Representation of plaintiffs in a national class action against agencies that colluded to pay low wages to au pairs; and
- A petitioner for clemency as part of President Obama's clemency initiative.

Awards and Recognitions

- *The American Lawyer*
Northeast Trailblazer - 2021
- *Crain's New York Business*
Notable Women in Law - 2021
- Legal Aid Society
Pro Bono Publico Award - 2021
- *Legal 500*
Corporate Investigations and White-Collar Criminal Defense - 2021
- National Black Lawyers
Top 100 - 2021
- *City & State New York* and *The Amsterdam News*
Power Players in Government and Politics - 2020

Industry

- New York State Joint Commission on Public Ethics
Commissioner

Community

- Roosevelt Institute
Board member
- Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture
Member
- American Constitution Society
National Board Member 2015-2021

Service to the Bar

- American Bar Foundation
Fellow
- National Black Lawyers
Member
- New York City Bar Association
Secretary, Ethics Committee

Publications

- “Success in Your Career Rests on a Three-Legged Stool,” *New York Law Journal*, March 17, 2022
- “Black Mothers’ Lives Matter: Time to Address the Disparities in Maternal Care across Race and Neighborhoods,” *New York Daily News*, 2019
- “Linguistic Profiling and the Law,” 15 *Stan. L. & Pol’y Rev.* 579, 2004
- “Law and Education: Affirmative Action Under Attack: Integrating Elite Law Schools and the Legal Profession: A View from the Black Law Students Associations of Harvard, Stanford, and Yale Law Schools,” 19 *Harv. BlackLetter J.* 43,, 2003

Speaking Engagements

- Panelist, “Faces of Progressive Lawyering,” NYU chapter of the American Constitution Society, March 10, 2022
- Co-Presenter, “Being a Resilient Lawyer in Challenging Times,” Jenner & Block 2021 CLE Relay., May 07, 2021
- “Boardroom to Classroom,” American Constitution Society, March 22, 2021
- “Running for Office,” UCLA Law’s American Constitution Society Chapter, March 12, 2021
- “Path to Partner,” Stanford Law Alumnae Panel, February 09, 2021
- “Calls to Action and Door Openings: If It Relates to NYS Government Officials – You May Be Lobbying,” Association of Corporate Counsel – New York City Chapter CLE, December 03, 2020

- “Testimony on Introduction 732-2018 Full Public Matching,” New York City Council, April 15, 2019