

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. She currently serves as the Monitor of a tier-one global financial institution. 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. Her service in two presidential administrations gives her unique insight into government and politics, while her more recent role as a commissioner of the New York State Joint Commission on Public Ethics places her at the forefront of lobbying and ethics law.

Ms. Smalls' clients turn to her for her independent sensibility, and her trusted and strategic advice. In her private practice, she has fought for undocumented immigrants, victims of financial crime and voters facing intimidation. As a commissioner of the New York State Joint Commission on Public Ethics, she provided oversight to the state agency tasked with ensuring that state elected officials and lobbyists comply with the state's ethics and lobbying laws and regulations. Previously, Ms. Smalls served as the Secretary of the New York City Bar's Ethics Committee.

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 then as executive secretary of 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 as a national board member of the American Constitution Society, the nation's leading progressive legal organization, with more than 200 student and lawyer chapters in almost every state and on most law school campuses. Before serving on the board, Ms. Smalls co-founded the student chapter at Stanford Law School and upon graduation, she co-founded the New York Lawyer Chapter to provide a space for progressive lawyers in New York City to meet and exchange ideas about how to support a progressive agenda in the law. She also 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.

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.

Crain's New York Business named Ms. Smalls a 2021 "Notable Women in Law." In 2020, *City & State New York* and *The Amsterdam News* also featured her as



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PRACTICE GROUPS

Complex Commercial Litigation
Government Controversies and Public Policy
Litigation
Lobbying Law and Government Ethics
Monitorship Practice

INDUSTRY GROUPS

COVID-19 / Coronavirus Resource Center

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

a “Power Player” in government and politics.

Representative matters include:

- Serving as the Monitor 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

- *Crain’s New York Business*
Notable Women in Law – 2021
- *City & State New York* and *The Amsterdam News*
Power Players – 2020

Industry

- New York State Joint Commission on Public Ethics
Commissioner

Community

- American Constitution Society
National board member
- Roosevelt Institute
Board member

Service to the Bar

- New York City Bar Association
Secretary, Ethics Committee

Publications

- “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

- “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