





CECELIA ESPENOZA

Senior Government Executive

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Proven senior government executive and board member. Experienced in corporate governance, enterprise risk, strategic planning, technology and cybersecurity, and succession planning. Skilled in assessing operational needs by listening to positions, questioning approaches, and communicating between and across sectors to create operational solutions.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

World Bank Group: Board Member, Access to Information Appeals (2015-2019), Washington D.C.

Reviewed internal processes and questioned key personnel to determine whether to release information to public requesters. Evaluated concerns and enterprise risks against the stated policies of the organization.

US Department of Justice, Executive Office for Immigration Review (2000-2017) (Falls Church, VA) (*Retired with Top Secret Clearance*)

• **Senior Associate General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel** (2003-2017)

As **Senior Counsel** to the Director of the Agency, I translated legal requirements across internal and external components and led operational changes to minimize enterprise risk and enhance government responsiveness to internal and external stakeholders. As **Records Officer**, I documented the exponential fiscal costs and enterprise risks in long term storage of personally identifiable, sensitive, and classified information. To address the risks, I strategically led an inter-governmental technological response to develop and implement of a system to maintain and properly dispose of those record holdings across 64 courts located throughout the U.S. As **Senior Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Counsel**, I responded to a 148% increase in requests by implementing off-site processing which utilized technology and moved the agency from paper to electronic responses reducing response times by 20% despite the increased volume. As **Privacy Officer** I coordinated with the Chief Information Officer to secure data from cyber threats and executed internal metrics to protect agency data including classified and personally identifiable information.

• **Board Member, (Appellate Judge) Board of Immigration Appeals** (2000-2003)

Evaluated facts against the Immigration and Nationality Act in over 10,000 case appeals. Presided over appellate hearings, posing questions to litigants to assess arguments presented in order to render a binding legal opinion.

Board Competencies

- Corporate Governance
- Enterprise Risk
- Strategic Planning
- Technology and Cybersecurity
- Succession Planning
- Privacy
- Ethics

Board Experience

Board Chair,
National Hispana Leadership
Institute (NHLI)

- Hiring Committee
- Succession Planning

Board Member,
Hispanic Association for Corporate
Responsibility (HACR)

- Corporate Governance
- Hiring Committee
- Audit Committee

Education

Juris Doctor, University of Utah
S.J. Quinney College of Law

Honors BA Political Science,
University of Utah

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (continued)

Associate Professor of Law (1997-2000)

St. Mary's University, Center for Legal & Social Justice (San Antonio, TX)

Assistant Professor of Law (1990-1997)

University of Denver, College of Law (Denver, CO)

COMMUNITY BOARDS AND ACTIVITIES

- ❖ Co-Chair, University of Utah Alumni, Denver Chapter (2022-present)
- ❖ Member, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, Denver #17 (2022-present)
- ❖ Investor, Pleasanton Apartments, (18 Units), San Antonio, Tx (2020)
- ❖ Captain, Colorado House District 4 - elected (2017-present)
 - Chair of Platform Committee 2022; Vice Chair 2018
 - Consolidated platform to eleven core values and expanded input and responses through use of technology
 - Chair of Diversity and Inclusion 2020 -2021
 - Redirected focus from external to internal development though countywide rules change
 - Led a team to develop and adopt a Code of Conduct
- ❖ Chair, Colorado Census Outreach Program committee (2019)
 - Evaluated strengths of 101 proposals submitted from throughout the state to allocate \$6 million dollars in grant funds
- ❖ Member, Roundtable of Former Immigration Judges (2017-present)
- ❖ Board Member, Arlington, VA Board of Zoning Appeals (2010-15)
 - Chair 2014-2015; Vice Chair 2013
- ❖ Board Member, Arlington, VA Committee of 100 (2007-2011)
 - Chair 2010-2011; Vice-Chair 2009-2010
- ❖ Charter Member League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) 4610 (2007-10)
 - Vice President (2007); Secretary (2008)
- ❖ President, Arlington, VA County Council of PTA's (2007-09)
- ❖ Board Member, Governor Tim Kaine's Virginia Latino Advisory Board (2005-07)
- ❖ Commissioner, Governor Mark Warner's Virginia Latino Advisory Commission (2003-05)
 - Principal Author, Commission Report (2004)
 - Chair, Education Committee (2004-05)

Certifications

- JFK School of Government, Harvard University Executive Leadership Program
- Center for Creative Leadership, Leadership Development Program
- Colorado Board Bound (2022-23) Women's Leadership Foundation

Bar Admissions

- Colorado State Bar (1992) (Active and in Good Standing)
- Texas State Bar (1997) (Inactive)
- Utah State Bar (1982) (Inactive)
- Utah Federal District Court (1982)(Inactive)

Awards

- AILA (American Immigration Lawyers Association) 2019 Advocacy Award (with Roundtable of Former Immigration Judges)
- 2014 Alumna of the Year, University of Utah, S.J. Quinney College of Law
- 2008 Honored Citizen: Arlington Public Schools (Arlington, VA)
- 2006 Leadership Arlington Executive Leadership Program (Arlington, VA)