



**ARIZONA LEGISLATIVE LEGAL**  
**INTERNSHIP PROGRAM**  
**ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT REVIEWS**





## **QUINNE DAOUST**

**Year of Legislative Legal Internship:** Spring 2022 (55<sup>th</sup> Legislature, Second Regular Session)

**Brief Work History and Current Employer:** My primary policy focus throughout law school has been on water law and policy issues. This summer I am working for the Salt River Project's legal team and will be working for the City of Phoenix's economic and planning department this upcoming fall.

**Favorite Memory:** My favorite memories are playing Family Feud in the Chief Clerk's office with the House Rules team and talking through legal issues with Tim and Jennifer in their office. It was such an encouraging environment to learn Arizona law and the state lawmaking process.

**Best Skill or Knowledge Gained:** The legal tool most valuable to me was learning how to issue spot and dissect legal issues quickly. Because bills would often have such a short turn-around time from standing committee to Rules committee, learning how to research and write substantive memos efficiently is an invaluable skill I learned in this position.





## **LIZA LAWSON RISOLDI**

**Year of Legislative Legal Internship:** 2022 (55<sup>th</sup> Legislature, Second Regular Session)

**Brief work history and current employer:** Before law school, I spent 12 years working in Arizona public education, primarily as a high school math teacher in the West Valley. During Law School, I interned with the Arizona Center for Law in the Public Interest and the ACLU of Arizona. I also participated in the Mediation Clinic, the Judicial Internship Opportunity Program, and worked for Silverman Law Offices. Beginning August of 2022, I will be a clerk for the Honorable David B. Gass at the Arizona Court of Appeals. Following my clerkship, I hope to practice public law with a non-profit or government entity.

**Favorite memory:** My favorite memory is when one of the representatives mentioned one of my memos during the House Rules committee. A close second is engaging in a controversial debate with House Rules attorneys and staff about whether a hotdog, or even a taco, is a sandwich. The House Rules attorneys and staff are invaluable mentors and teachers!

**What was the best skill or knowledge gained:** I learned how to more quickly research, analyze, and write on topics with which I sometimes had very little familiarity. The Rules attorneys gave me great tips and tricks to improve my organization and writing. I also became much more familiar with the Arizona Constitution, federal laws, and the machine that is our State Legislature.





## **EMERSON KLEIDER**

**Year of Legislative Legal Internship:** Spring 2022

**Brief work history and current employer:** Before law school I interned with a lobbying organization in Washington, D.C. and took particular interest in the economics of criminal justice reform. In law school, I was an intern at the Public Defender's office, the Governor's Regulatory Review Council, and the Arizona Supreme Court. After law school I will be clerking for the Arizona Court of Appeals.

**Favorite memory:** My favorite memory is when I sat in on a stakeholder meeting to discuss and negotiate bill language. It was so beneficial to see the concern for impacted parties and see the changes in action.

**What was the best skill or knowledge gained:** The unique and unparalleled insight I gained into how the Arizona legislative process works is something that will set me apart from my peers and give me an advantageous perspective that will make me a better attorney.





## **CAMERON TOERING**

**Year of Legislative Legal Internship:** Spring 2022 (55<sup>th</sup> Legislature, Second Regular Session)

**Brief work history and current employer:** I worked at the Legislature in some capacity from January 2017- May to 2020 (Page, Lead Page and Research intern). In the summer of 2021, I worked at the Cochise County Attorney's Office. In the Fall of 2021, I worked as a junior policy advisor in the Office of Corporation Commission Chairwoman Lea Márquez Peterson. I am currently a Law Clerk with the Cochise County Attorney's Office.

**Favorite memory:** My favorite memory of my time in the internship was working on the condo bill "HB 2275" alongside Chris and Pete and hearing all the arguments from the various stakeholders as the bill advanced through the legislative process.

**What was the best skill or knowledge gained:** The best skill I learned through the internship was the ability to communicate complex legal issues to policymakers and write in a way that the topics are understandable and approachable to help better advance our great state of Arizona.





## **MEGAN MANNING**

**Year of Legislative Legal Internship:** Spring 2021 (55<sup>th</sup> Legislature, First Regular Session)

**Brief work history and current employer:** I interned at the United States Attorney's Office, the Goldwater Institute, and the Maricopa County Attorney's Office during law school. Post-graduation, I returned to the Maricopa County Attorney's Office.

**Favorite memory:** My favorite memory was having the opportunity to speak directly with legislators about their bills and being able to offer effective legal counsel that could influence Arizona statute.

**What was the best skill or knowledge gained:** This was the first internship that allowed me to develop a much better understanding of the Arizona Constitution. I believe it is incredibly important for people to know how their state government works, and all of that begins with understanding the state constitution.





## **PHILLIP TOMAS**

**Year of Legislative Legal Internship:** Spring 2021 (55<sup>th</sup> Legislature, First Regular Session)

**Brief work history and current employer:** I am currently interning for the Maricopa County Attorney's Office in their Capital Litigation Bureau. I have interned with the Honorable Justice Clint Bolick and interned with the Arizona Senate Rules Office.

**Favorite memory:** My favorite memory is the debates I had with Chris, my supervisor and Senate Rules Attorney, over what bills were constitutional and getting to pick each other's brains about different issues we spotted.

**What was the best skill or knowledge gained:** I learned a lot about Arizona law and further developed my knowledge of Arizona Constitutional law. In addition, I learned how to read statutes and continued to develop my ability to think on my feet.



## **AUSTIN CROMACK**

**Year of Legislative Legal Internship:** Spring 2020 (54<sup>th</sup> Legislature, Second Regular Session)

**Brief work history and current employer:** In law school, I interned in the Elections Division of the Arizona Secretary of State's Office and the Arizona Governor's Office of General Counsel. I also clerked at the Republican National Committee in Washington, D.C. and for the Republican National Lawyers Association during law school. After law school, I accepted my current role as the Policy Director for the Republican National Lawyers Association.

**Favorite memory:** While short-lived due to the COVID-19 pandemic, every day at the Legislature was a wild ride. I most appreciated the time leadership afforded me to get my hands dirty and research interesting legal issues.

**What was the best skill or knowledge gained:** I gained an invaluable understanding of the behind-the-scenes politics and inner workings of the Arizona legislative process I could not have acquired anywhere else.





## **ALLISON MARTIN**

**Year of Legislative Legal Internship:** Spring 2020 (54<sup>th</sup> Legislature, Second Regular Session)

**Brief work history and current employer:** Prior to law school, I worked for three years with a Christian nonprofit called “The Navigators.” During law school, I interned for the Tempe Police Department, the Center for Arizona Policy, and Schmidt, Schneck, Even & Williams. I also externed for the Goldwater Institute, the U.S. Attorney’s Office, and the Arizona Supreme Court. Currently, I am clerking for Justice Montgomery on the Arizona Supreme Court.

**Favorite memory:** My favorite memory was working with Chris Kleminich to research the legal underpinnings of bills and watching those bills debated on the Arizona Senate floor.

**What was the best skill or knowledge gained:** I received a wonderful education on our state constitution and was even awarded the highest grade in my Arizona Constitutional Law course. I learned to research efficiently and continued to hone my writing abilities. I would highly recommend this internship to anyone interested!



**ADAM GORSKI**

**Year of Legislative Legal Internship:** Spring 2020 (54<sup>th</sup> Legislature, Second Regular Session)

**Brief work history and current employer:** The internship with the Arizona Legislature was my last internship before graduating from law school. It was the perfect way to wrap up everything I learned in school. Before that, I gained experience working as a prosecuting attorney for the St. Clair County Prosecutor's Office in Michigan, the Arizona Attorney General's Office, and Fennemore Craig. I currently work at BurgSimpson in Phoenix handling personal injury matters. I handle cases all over the PI spectrum, including car crashes, wrongful deaths, medical malpractice, and disability discrimination lawsuits.

**Favorite memory:** My favorite memory interning for the Arizona Legislature was literally just walking into the building and office every day, knowing that I am going to enjoy what I do that day. Being able to walk through the Memorial Plaza and seeing the breathtaking copper dome and Winged Victory weathervane on top of the old historic Capitol Building made me appreciate the history that I was walking into. On top of that, everyone in the office made my internship that much more enjoyable. Most notably, I thoroughly appreciated the open-door policy of my mentor, Ken Behringer, which allowed me to easily get help whenever I needed it and even allowed me to just talk about non-work-related matters like the Arizona Diamondbacks or even his granddaughter, Scarlett. These simple conversations happily broke up the monotony that school brought as well as the challenging work I was assigned during the internship.

**What was the best skill or knowledge gained:** The work I did as the Legislative Council intern has undoubtedly helped my career as a personal injury lawyer. In addition to learning more about the process of passing a bill and understanding how laws in Arizona are made, the best skills I gained from this internship were improving my research abilities and becoming more adaptable under pressure. I was regularly tasked with researching several topics that I had never dealt with before or knew very little about. However, because the bills had to be moved along quickly, I was forced to come up with answers to questions in a short amount of time. This led me to think more quickly on my feet and taught me how to deliver under pressure. I have carried these skills over to my current job at BurgSimpson. Without the skills I gained working with the Arizona Legislature, I would not be as successful in my professional career as I am today.



**EMILY JEFFRIES (WALKER)**

**Year of Legislative Legal Internship:** Spring of 2019 (54<sup>th</sup> Legislature, First Regular Session)

**Brief work history and current employer:** I worked for two years as a teacher with Teach for America. In law school, I was a summer associate at Dickinson Wright. After law school, I will be clerking for the Arizona Supreme Court and then returning to Dickinson Wright.

**Favorite memory:** My favorite memory is meeting with Tim Fleming and Krystle Fernandez to talk through constitutional issues. It was exciting to explain my research and analysis to them. It was also exciting to watch how bills progressed throughout the legislative session.

**What was the best skill or knowledge gained:** I learned a lot about Arizona law and improved my knowledge of constitutional law. I'm very glad I am more familiar with important cases in Arizona constitutional law and the Arizona legislative process.



## **ANTHONY NORDMAN**

**Year of Legislative Legal internship:** Spring 2019 (54th Legislature, First Regular Session)

**Brief work history and current employer:** Interned at the Arizona Secretary of State's Office and the Arizona Attorney General's Office, Transportation Section.

**Favorite memory:** My favorite memory was watching Governor Ducey kick-off the legislative session. Overlooking from the balcony, I appreciated the sense of bi-partisan optimism for the new session and how eager new members appeared to get to work.

**What was the best skill or knowledge gained?** Statutory/Constitutional interpretation. My primary duty at Legislative Council was preparing legal memos in response to legislative research requests, often involving abstract state constitutional or state law issues. Learning how to efficiently sift through statutory language has proved to be an invaluable skill and continues to make legal research much more engaging.



## **AUSTIN MARSHALL**

**Year of Legislative Legal Internship:** Spring 2019 (54<sup>th</sup> Legislature, First Regular Session)

**Brief work history and current employer:** Before being a Legislative Legal Intern, I worked for the Torres Law Group doing election/political law during the 2018 election cycle. Since my time at the Legislature, I started as a summer extern for the Honorable Diane J. Humetewa at the United States District Court in Phoenix and as a research assistant for Professor Justin Weinstein-Tull. During my 3L year, I will be working at the labor law firm Lubin and Enoch.

**Favorite memory:** Every day I would get in around 7:30am and Tim would have already been there for a couple hours and would maintain the same positive energy and cheery demeanor throughout the whole day, no matter what happened.

**What was the best skill or knowledge gained:** That legislators are just like anyone among us and that they would be so lost without the amazing staff of the Legislature helping them understand the issues and keep operations running (hopefully) smoothly.



## **FERNANDO GUILLEN**

**Year of Legislative Legal Internship:** Spring of 2019 (54<sup>th</sup> Legislature, First Regular Session)

**Brief work history and current employer:** Lubin & Enoch (Summer 2018), Law Office of Ruben L. Reyes, (Fall 2019), Tiffany & Bosco (Summer 2019)

**Favorite memory:** I made so many great memories that it is hard to pick just one. I will never forget everyone I met during my externship. I will always remember the first time I had to summarize and present a bill during caucus and answer questions. I will also always remember distributing my first amendment. I enjoyed listening to the testimonies and policy debates during committees. I will also never forget the recognition ceremony at the end of the externship. Getting to shake every member's hand on the House floor with the other interns/externs was a very fun time.

**What was the best skill or knowledge gained:** I learned so much from my supervisor, Ms. Rhonda Barnes. Listening to her give advice to the members of our caucus and discuss legal issues with stakeholders and policy advisors was very enlightening. I learned a lot about the AZ Constitution. Coming from a different state, I did not know much about the initiative process, nor what it takes for the Legislature to amend an initiative. I learned a tremendous amount about how our state government works. I was able to track bills from the time they were introduced to the time the governor signed them. Analyzing bills for potential legal issues was a great exercise in constitutional law.





## **BRENNAN BOWEN**

**Year of Legislative Legal Internship:** Spring of 2019 (54th Legislature, First Regular Session)

**Brief work history and current employer:** Center of Arizona Policy (Spring 2018); Arizona Attorney General's Office, Government Accountability & Special Litigation Unit (Summer 2018); Goldwater Institute (Fall 2018); Arizona Legislative Internship (Spring 2019); Arizona Attorney General's Office, Consumer Protection & Antitrust Units (Summer 2019); Governor Ducey's Office of General Counsel (Fall 2019).

**Favorite memory:** Rushing upstairs to sit on Chris Klemmich's couch, eat peanut-butter crackers (graciously provided by Chris), to discuss the constitutionality of a given floor amendment.

**What was the best skill or knowledge gained:** During my time with the Senate Rules office, I gained a much deeper understanding of the Arizona Constitution, the State Legislature, and Arizona law more generally. It is an experience like no other, which has benefited me greatly in my legal career.

## **REES ATKINS**

**Year of Legislative Legal Internship:** Spring 2019 (54th Legislature, First Regular Session)

**Brief work history and current employer:** I have worked for a criminal defense attorney, a professor, and an immigration attorney. I will clerk for an Idaho state district judge starting in August.

**Favorite memory:** My favorite memory was looking at the youth minimum wage bill. I was intrigued by the challenge of understanding the small technical workings and big constitutional issues involved.

**What was the best skill or knowledge gained:** I learned to pay attention to details, because that way I might catch something that nobody else has and be useful in that way!



## **MICKELL SUMMERHAYS**

**Year of Legislative Legal internship:** Spring 2018 (53<sup>rd</sup> Legislature, Second Regular Session)

**Brief work history and current employer:** Dickinson Wright

**Favorite memory:** I enjoyed seeing my research put into action in Rules committee meetings. It was great to hear my words read by the attorneys when they reported to the committee. It was a definitive way to see that my legal contributions were not only helpful, but essential to the attorneys doing their job.

**What was the best skill or knowledge gained?** The best knowledge I gained was about the Arizona Constitution. I'm originally from another state and spending so much time studying the Arizona Constitution made me feel very patriotic for this state and its constitution.

## **PETER BROWN**

**Year of Legislative Legal internship:** Spring 2018 (53<sup>rd</sup> Legislature, 2<sup>nd</sup> Regular session)

**Brief work history and current employer:** AutoMon, LLC (2015-2016); City of Scottsdale Attorney's Office, Civil Division (Summer 2017); The Brebner Law Firm (Fall/Winter 2017); Comitz | Beethe (Current Employer)

**Favorite memory:** Being relentlessly reminded by Darci, Norma, Tim and Krystle to get food on the Capitol Lawn or in the Rules Office.

**What was the best skill or knowledge gained?** The best knowledge I've gained is a better understanding of and familiarity with Arizona's Constitution. I've gained a deeper insight into the state-level lawmaking process. I've also learned how to effectively communicate the unconstitutional aspects of a bill to the lawmaker proposing it.



## **MADDALENA SAVARY**

**Year of Legislative Legal Internship:** Spring 2017 (53<sup>rd</sup> Legislature, First Regular Session)

**Brief work history and current employer:** Immediately following the Session, I was an extern at the Arizona Attorney General Civil Rights Unit. Currently, I am completing my last year of law school at ASU College of Law, including an externship with the Arizona Supreme Court. Immediately following law school, I plan to Clerk for the Arizona Court of Appeals, Division One. I would like to follow that with a position working in Arizona legislation and policy.

**Favorite memory:** How much those that work at the Legislature love their jobs! It was a blessing to work closely with the exceptionally skilled and knowledgeable staff at the Legislature and to see their dedication and talent up close. As a student and an Arizona voter, I appreciate having the opportunity to learn about our legislative process and to get to know the people that make its wheels turn.

And I fondly remember watching Sine Die (end of the legislative session) during *daylight* hours!

**What was the best skill or knowledge gained:** Knowledge of the Arizona systems and networking with the legislative staff. Through my internship, I had the opportunity to work with the Rules Attorneys, as well as Members, policy staff, and the Legislative Council. I was able to substantively participate in our legislative process and to build relationships with those working in Arizona legislation and policy.



## **ESTHER LINKEY SIVAK**

**Year of Legislative Legal Internship:** Spring 2017 (53<sup>rd</sup> Legislature, First Regular Session)

**Brief work history and current employer:** I am currently interning with the U.S. Attorney's Office. I have clerked for the Arizona Governor's Office of General Counsel and for Schmitt Schneck Casey Even & Williams— a private law firm in Phoenix. I have also worked as a law clerk for the Goldwater Institute. Prior to entering law school, I was a Financial Manager for the Arizona Department of Economic Security and was heavily involved in government administration.

**Favorite memory:** Helping draft a bill that was enacted into law.

**What was the best skill or knowledge gained:** I gained tremendous experience analyzing both the U.S. Constitution and the Arizona Constitution. My internship at the Arizona House of Representatives as a legal intern for the House Majority General Counsel was an amazing and illuminating experience. I was exposed to relevant and interesting legal issues covering a broad spectrum of law and policy. Working for the House Majority General Counsel provides not only an opportunity to improve your legal research and writing skills, but it also provides you with a unique opportunity to see the inner workings of legislative politics.



## **MARK HODGSON**

**Year of Legislative Legal Internship:** Spring 2017 (53<sup>rd</sup> Legislature, First Regular Session)

**Brief work history and current employer:** Pre-law employment: 2008-2010: Correctional Officer, Washington State Penitentiary 2010-2012: Security Officer, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine

Law School employment: Summer 2016: Yuma County Legal Defender; Fall 2016: Thomson Reuters; Spring 2017: Arizona Legislative Council; Summer 2017: Maricopa County Public Defender Clinician; Fall 2017: Judicial Extern, Judge Pamela Svoboda; Winter 2017 - Present: Maricopa County Public Defender Law Clerk

**Favorite memory:** Seeping up the wisdom of General Counsel Ken Behringer and Executive Director Mike Braun deep in the Leg Council bowels.

**What was the best skill or knowledge gained?** Conciseness.

**HON. DANIELLE VIOLA**

**(Maricopa County Superior Court)**

**Year of Legislative Legal Internship:** Spring 1999

**Brief work history and current employer:** In September 1998, I started working at Snell & Wilmer, LLP as an associate in the Commercial Litigation practice group. I continued my practice with Snell & Wilmer and was elected partner in 2005. In May 2011, I left the firm after being appointed by Governor Brewer to fill a vacancy on the Maricopa County Superior Court. Between May 2011 and June 2014, I was assigned to a Family Court calendar. I have been handling a Criminal calendar since July 2014.

**Favorite memory:** Working with the Rules attorneys and reading news articles about legislation that I researched and analyzed.

**What was the best skill or knowledge gained?** Learning the legislative process and developing a greater appreciation for the relationship between the three branches of government served me well in my practice and in my role on the bench. The opportunity to analyze statutes and legislative history gave me an advantage in many legal matters that involved questions of statutory construction and interpretation.





## **EMILY GILDAR WAGNER**

**Year of Legislative Legal Internship:** Spring 2011

**Brief work history and current employer:** I joined Snell & Wilmer upon graduating from law school in 2011. I am now a fifth-year associate at Snell & Wilmer. I specialize in commercial bankruptcy.

**Favorite memory:** Attending committee meetings and seeing my research and analysis conveyed to committee members (and presumably impacting their decisions).

**What was the best skill or knowledge gained?** Legislative research and analysis. Knowledge of how the Arizona Legislature works.

## **MATTHEW MOOSBRUGGER**

**Year of Legislative Legal Externship:** I participated in the Arizona House of Representatives legal externship program in the Spring of 2016.

**Brief work history and current employer:** My work history involves a legislative internship in the Arizona Senate, an externship in the Arizona Attorney General's Civil Rights Division, and the legal externship in the Arizona House of Representatives for the Majority Staff General Counsel.

**Favorite Memory:** My favorite memory was getting to work closely with legislators and attend meetings that would ultimately shape the way legislation read as proposed or enacted.

**What was the best skill or knowledge gained?** I gained a lot of experience that helped me expand my legal writing and analysis abilities. The feedback I received on my work product was invaluable in helping me become better at legal analysis, especially as it relates to legislative issues.



## **ASHLEE HOFFMANN**

**Year of Legislative Legal Internship:** Spring 2013

**Brief work history and current employer:** After graduating in May 2014, I was a judicial law clerk for Judge Thumma at the Arizona Court of Appeals. I clerked for a year before joining the Arizona Attorney General's Office, where I worked for the Civil and Criminal Litigation and Advice ("CLA") section. While in CLA, I represented the Division of Developmental Disabilities for their litigation, contract, and policy & advice needs. CLA also works with DES and DCS during the legislative session to track and analyze relevant bills, so my experience at the Legislature was very helpful.

Recently, I transferred to the Appeals Unit in Mesa, where I mostly work on DCS appeals/special actions (and occasionally DES appeals/special actions).

**Favorite memory:** It's difficult to pick one specific memory that is my favorite. But any memories that come to mind inevitably involve candid conversations with Tim and Don (House Rules Attorneys) discussing the reasoning and motivations behind certain bills, House procedural rules, or the world in general. Both attorneys were fonts of knowledge with a ton of experience and they were more than willing to sit down with an intern/extern to answer any questions. The entire House Rules Attorney's Office was welcoming and, beyond the amazing learning experience, the time I spent with the people really made the externship a fantastic experience.

**What was the best skill or knowledge gained?** The experience of researching bills, speaking with legislators, and watching the legislative process was invaluable. I truly appreciated the opportunity to be a part of the legislative process and was able to work on interesting legal and constitutional questions. The externship honed my research, writing, and critical thinking skills while at the same time allowed for creative problem-solving. I would recommend it to anyone, even if they're not particularly interested in politics. The Legislature is where laws are made and, as attorneys who interpret those laws, it's extremely helpful to understand the behind-the-scenes crafting of a bill.

## **NATHAN WADE**

**Year of Legislative Legal Internship:** Spring 2012

**Brief Work History and Current Employer:** Upon graduation in May of 2013, I immediately began clerking for the Hon. Sarah Simmons, who was the presiding judge of the Pima County Court System. After about 11 months, I transitioned into a position as Assistant Public Defender in Pima County, which I have now been doing for just under four years. Additionally, I work with Arizona Attorneys for Criminal Justice on their Legislative Policy committee, which takes advantage of the experience I gained through my legislative legal internship. In both my position as a public defender and on the Legislative Policy committee, there are many issues that are “hot” right now that directly impact my work, including sentencing reform, marijuana legalization and the repercussions for that across several areas of practice, and funding models for rehabilitation and incarceration to name a few.

**Favorite Memory:** There are so many great memories. First, the opportunity to work with a brilliant attorney like Rhonda Barnes was something that taught me so much. Add in the passion of her, the rest of the House Democratic staff and the other interns, and it was an inspiring and wonderful place to be. Also, getting to know some of the Legislators as human beings, outside of the political spectrum and seeing how much they cared about their communities was something I’ll never forget.

**Best Skill or Knowledge Gained:** For me, it was learning how to navigate the legislative process, particularly with the makeup of this Legislature. Often, the goals of many of the organizations I work with are not always ones that on the surface would be attractive to the current Legislature, but learning how to sell your legislative priorities, partner with the right legislators and get a place at the table was invaluable. Additionally, understanding legislative intent behind bills and statutes (and how to research and find it) gives me a lot more to work with when I am looking at my cases.



## **GEORGE SARAFIN**

**Year of Legislative Legal Internship:** Spring 2011

**Brief work history and current employer:** I've worked for the Glendale City Prosecutor's Office as an Assistant City Prosecutor for four and half years (since March 2012). Before that, I worked at R&R Partners, a lobbying firm that worked at the Arizona House of Representatives and Arizona Senate. Earlier than that, I was a Page for many years at the House of Representatives.

**Favorite Memory:** This is a tough one. There were a lot of memorable moments while I was working at the Rules Office and the House of Representatives. Probably my favorite moment was getting to sit in on the House Rules Committee agenda meetings and getting to see the inner workings of the Legislature. Also, I enjoyed writing legislative memos for the House Rules Office on the constitutionality of proposed legislation.

**What was the best skill or knowledge gained?** The best skill I learned was how to effectively research legal issues via Westlaw and LexisNexis and harnessing those skills into writing a legal memo. I also learned that all the work that goes into drafting legislation and the various steps involved into getting a piece of legislation passed.

## **AMY DIAZ (WUEBBLES)**

**Year of Legislative Legal Internship:** Spring 2002

**Brief work history and current employer:** I am a diplomat with the U.S. Department of State. Currently, I head up the U.S. Department of State's Counter-Narcotics program in Afghanistan. Prior to that, I served as the Embassy Panama's Coordinator for the Summit of the Americas, and before that I was the Internal Political Unit Chief in Georgia. I started working at the Department of State in 2002, as a Presidential Management Fellow.

**Favorite memory:** Writing a memo explaining why a proposed legislative initiative was unconstitutional and being told by a legislator that he believed my analysis was correct, but he was still going to pass the legislation.

**What was the best skill or knowledge gained?** I learned how to quickly draft legal briefs, defend an opinion, and understand that politics will often triumph common sense. These are all skills that have served me well as a diplomat.