

JAMES J. SANDMAN
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SUMMARY

Broad leadership experience as President of a national non-profit corporation, Managing Partner of a leading international law firm, General Counsel of a major urban school district undergoing transformation, President of the District of Columbia Bar, and chair/officer/board member of non-profit organizations. Six years of teaching experience at a top law school. Frequent speaker and panelist on issues involving the administration of justice, legal education, and the legal profession.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2026 – Distinguished Professor of Practice and Public Service
Present University of South Carolina Joseph F. Rice School of Law

2023 -- Senior Advisor and Chair of the National Leadership Council
Present Frontline Justice

2020 – Distinguished Lecturer and Senior Consultant to the Future of the Profession Initiative
2026 University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School

Courses taught: Professional Responsibility, Artificial Intelligence and Access to Justice, Leadership in Law

2020 – President Emeritus
Present Legal Services Corporation

2011 – President
2020 Legal Services Corporation

Chief executive officer of the non-profit corporation established by Congress to provide funding for civil legal services for low-income people. LSC is the largest single funder of civil legal aid programs in the United States, making grants to 132 programs with more than 850 offices and almost 5,000 lawyers serving every state and the territories

- Oversaw budget of \$440 million and managed staff of 115 employees
- Approved all grants
- Represented LSC in dealing with Members of Congress and their staffs
- Worked closely with eleven-member Board of Directors appointed by the President of the United States and confirmed by the Senate

2007 – **General Counsel**

2011 *District of Columbia Public Schools*

Chief Legal Officer for a 45,000-student, 8,000-employee public school system under the leadership of Chancellor Michelle Rhee

- Member of Chancellor Rhee's senior management team
- Responsible for all legal issues arising in the school system, including labor and employment matters, policy development, administrative litigation, and compliance with federal and local law
- Managed an office of 18 lawyers and six staff

1977 – **Managing Partner, Partner, and Associate**

2007 *Arnold & Porter LLP*

Arnold & Porter is an international law firm based in Washington, DC.

- Elected by the partnership to five two-year terms as Managing Partner
- Firm revenue tripled during tenure as Managing Partner
- Opened and served as Managing Partner of Los Angeles office
- Practice areas: risk management and avoidance, product liability litigation, complex litigation, antitrust counseling and litigation
- Elected member of the firm's Policy and Partner Compensation Committees
- Appointed member of the firm's Management, Hiring, New Partners, Diversity, and Charitable Contributions Committees
- Resident in the firm's Washington (1977-82, 1992-2007), Denver (1982-91), and Los Angeles (1991-92) offices

1976 – **Law Clerk to the Honorable Max Rosenn, United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit**
1977

EDUCATION

1973 – **University of Pennsylvania Law School**

1976 *J.D., cum laude*

- Order of the Coif (top ten percent of class)
- Executive Editor, Volume 124, *University of Pennsylvania Law Review*
- Associate Editor, Volume 123, *University of Pennsylvania Law Review*

1969 – **Boston College, College of Arts and Sciences**

1973 *Bachelor of Arts (History), summa cum laude*

- Phi Beta Kappa
- Durcan Commencement Award (top history student)
- Honors Program
- Four-Year Presidential Scholarship

PROFESSIONAL, CIVIC, AND CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Albany Law School

- Vice Chair, Board of Trustees, 2026-present; member, 2016-present
- Chair, Career Advancement Committee

American Bar Association

- Member, Governing Council, Center for Innovation, 2025-present
- Vice Chair, Task Force on Law and Artificial Intelligence, 2023-25
- Chair, Task Force on Legal Needs Arising from the COVID-19 Pandemic, 2020-21
- Member, Commission on the Future of Legal Services, 2014-16
- Member, Advisory Council, ABA Center for Innovation, 2016-19
- Member, House of Delegates, 2005-07
- Member, Standing Committee on Pro Bono and Public Service, 2007-08

California State Bar

- Member, Closing the Justice Gap Working Group, 2021-22

Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church

- Elder/Trustee, 2011-14

Christ Church – Washington Parish (Episcopal)

- Member of the Vestry (board of directors), 2021-24
- Senior Warden, 2022-24

College of Saint Rose, Albany, NY

- Member, Board of Trustees, 2014-25
- Chair, Audit Committee, 2019-25
- Chair, Legal Affairs Committee, 2021-25

Colorado Lawyers Committee

- Member, Board of Directors, 1984-1991

D.C. Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy

- Chairman of the Board and member of the Board of Directors, 2012 –2021

District of Columbia Access to Justice Commission

- Chair, 2026 -present, appointed by the District of Columbia Court of Appeals
- Vice Chair, 2020-26
- Member, 2014-present

District of Columbia Bar

- President, 2006-07 (elected by the Bar membership)
- Board of Governors, 2003-08 (elected by the Bar membership)
- Pro Bono Committee, Chair, 2009-2014; Vice Chair, 2008-09; Member, 2018-present

- Chair, Pro Bono Program Strategic Assessment Task Force, 2014-15
- Chair, Pro Bono Initiative Working Group, 2007-08
- Chair, Committee on Multijurisdictional Practice, 2001-05
- Chair, Screening Committee, 2004-05
- Co-Chair, Law Practice Management Section, 1998-2000, 2001-02; member, Section Steering Committee, 1998-2003
- Pro Bono Initiative Working Group, 2000-01
- Special Committee on Multi-Disciplinary Practice, 1999-2005
- Task Force on Sexual Orientation and the Legal Workplace, 1995-99

District of Columbia Circuit Judicial Conference Standing Committee on Pro Bono Legal Services

- Chair, 2013-18; Co-Chair, 2010-13; member, 2007-18

District of Columbia Government

- Facilitator (unpaid volunteer), Deputy Mayor's Cross-Sector Collaboration Task Force (on collaboration between District of Columbia Public Schools and charter schools), 2015-18

District of Columbia Public Charter School Board

- Vice Chair, 2021-26 (elected by the Board)
- Member (by appointment of the Mayor of the District of Columbia), 2019-present

Diversity Lab

- Consultant on improving diversity in large law firms, 2020-23

Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System

- Chair, Executive Committee, and Chair, Advisory Board, 2022-present
- Member, Advisory Board, 2020-present

International Senior Lawyers Project

- Board of Directors, 2007-11, 2021-24

The Meyer Foundation

- Chair of the Board, 2018-19
- Vice Chair, 2017-18
- Member, Board of Directors, 2007-19
- Audit Committee, 2008-18; Chair, 2015-18
- Governance Committee, 2016-18

Minority Corporate Counsel Association

- Lloyd M. Johnson, Jr., Scholarship Selection Committee, 2005-07

NALP Foundation for Law Career Research and Education

- Board of Trustees, 2005-08
- National Advisory Board, 2003-05

Neighborhood Legal Services Program, Washington, DC

- Board of Directors, 2000-05
- Secretary, 2001-05

Pro Bono Institute

- Member, Board of Directors, 2020-present
- Law Firm Pro Bono Project Advisory Committee, 1998-2020

Step toe & Johnson LLP

- Diversity Advisory Board, Chair, 2015-18; member, 2011-18

Tahirih Justice Center

- Board of Directors, 2014-19

TED Conferences

- Member, Faculty Advisory Council, TEDLaw, 2025-present

Tzedek DC

- Advisory Council, 2017-present

United States Civil Rights Commission

- District of Columbia State Advisory Committee, Chair, 2014-16; member, 2008-16

University of Pennsylvania Law School

- Board of Advisors, Penn Law Center on the Future of the Profession, 2019-2020
- Board of Overseers, 1998-2007
- Capital Campaign Executive Committee, 2004-12

Washington Council of Lawyers

- Honorary Board, 2016-present

Washington Performing Arts

- Member, Board of Directors, 2003-22
- Executive Committee, 2008-22
- Vice Chair, 2008-18
- Chair, Audit Committee, 2010-18, 2019-22

Whitman-Walker Clinic

- Chair of the Board of Directors, 2008-09
- Board of Directors, 2003-09
- Co-Chair, "Going the Extra Mile" Benefit, 2002-06

Whitman-Walker Foundation

- Member, Board of Directors, 2023-

Wilkes University, Wilkes-Barre, PA

- Board of Trustees, 2002-08

Women's Bar Association Foundation, Washington, DC

- Member, Board of Directors, 2011-14

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

- Adjunct Teaching Award, University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School, 2026
- Wilkes University, Commencement Speaker and Honorary Doctor of Laws Recipient, 2023
- *American Lawyer* Lifetime Achievement Award, 2022
- Fayette County (Kentucky) Bar Association, Access to Justice Award, 2022
- Albany Law School, Commencement Speaker and Honorary Doctor of Laws Recipient, 2021
- American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Elected Fellow, 2021
- Fellows of the American Bar Foundation, Distinguished Life Fellow Award, 2021
- Neighborhood Legal Services Program (Washington, DC), Pioneer of Justice Award, 2021
- American Bar Association, Presidential Citation, 2020
- *ABA Journal* Legal Rebel, 2020
- Legal Services NYC, Visionary Leadership Award, 2020
- American Law Institute, Member, 2019-present
- Legal Aid Society of Cleveland, Louis Stokes Paragon Award, 2017
- Rutgers Law School, Commencement Speaker, 2017
- University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law, Commencement Speaker, 2017
- District of Columbia Commission on Human Rights, Cornelius Alexander Humanitarian Award, 2016
- Hispanic Bar Association of the District of Columbia, Hugh M. Johnson Award, 2016
- District of Columbia Bar, Justice William J. Brennan Jr. Award, 2015
- Washington Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights & Urban Affairs, Wiley A. Branton Award, 2014
- Villanova University, Medallion Award and Law School Commencement Speaker, 2014
- McGlothlin Leadership Fellow, College of William & Mary, 2014
- Quotation of the Day, *The New York Times*, March 16, 2013
- College of Saint Rose, Commencement Speaker and Honorary D.H.L. Recipient, 2013
- Council for Court Excellence, Justice Potter Stewart Award, 2013
- Washington Council of Lawyers, Presidents' Award, 2012
- College of Law Practice Management, Fellow, 2012-present
- University of Pennsylvania Law School, Howard Lesnick Pro Bono Award, 2011
- Tahirih Justice Center, Wings of Justice Award, 2011
- DC Law Students in Court, first annual Celebration of Service Award, 2011
- "90 Greatest Washington Lawyers of the Last 30 Years," *Legal Times*, 2008
- University of Pennsylvania Law School, Alumni Award of Merit, 2007
- "Star of the Bar," Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia, 2006

BAR ADMISSIONS

- Colorado (inactive)
- District of Columbia
- Pennsylvania (inactive)
- Supreme Court of the United States
- United States Courts of Appeals for the Third, Fifth, Tenth, and District of Columbia Circuits
- United States District Courts for the Districts of Columbia and Colorado