

MEERA JOSHI

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EXPERIENCE

NYU ROBERT F. WAGNER GRADUATE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC SERVICE

2019 - present

Visiting Scholar at the Rudin Center for Transportation

- Researching regulation, traffic management and data collection practices relating to app based car services operating in major international metropolitan cities.

REMIX SOFTWARE

2019 - present

Policy Advisor

- Advise on software solutions for municipalities and government agencies to use scooter, bike and app based car service trip data to develop informed policy for improving transportation access, traffic management, safety and ensuring consumer and driver protections.

NEW YORK CITY TAXI AND LIMOUSINE COMMISSION

2011 - 2019

Agency's Chief Executive Officer and Commission Chair (2014 - Present)

- Appointed by NYC Mayor to lead 600-person agency and nine-member Commission. Set and ensure compliance with regulatory framework that governs daily transportation of over one million people, performed in over 130,000 vehicles, ranging from taxis to Uber and Lyft, local car services and luxury limousines, driven by over 200,000 drivers -- the largest for-hire market in the nation. Previously served as agency General Counsel.

Regulatory & Policy Work

- Oversee analysis of millions of daily trip trends to form policy dictating the flow and availability of yellow taxis, green taxis, and popular app services like Uber and Lyft, focusing on vehicle utilization, effect on traffic and social and economic impact.
- Using existing regulatory powers, developed novel policy to increase and protect driver income after establishing that most of NYC's 80,000 app drivers make less than a livable wage.
- Ensure that new market entrants such as Uber and Lyft adhere to core consumer protections such as adequate insurance, price transparency, access for the disabled, and fingerprint background checks for all drivers.
- Using data to establish the highest levels of accountability among app based car services, including Uber and Lyft. Through existing regulatory powers mandated these companies to provide daily submission of detailed trip records providing the City, policy makers and the public visibility into trip density and scarcity, vehicle utilization and overall use of shared City streets.
- Passed the nation's first and most comprehensive accessibility mandate for popular app based car services so they too can provide equal service to all. Successfully defeated legal challenges to such mandates due to their foundation on comprehensive data analysis and due diligence. Negotiated federal settlement that transformed nation's largest taxi fleet into nation's largest accessible taxi fleet, imposing an accessible taxi mandate and follow through on every aspect of implementation.
- Passed dozens of groundbreaking regulations to address novel issues arising out of industry's meteoric growth.

Safety & Efficiency Initiatives

- Address street safety goals of Vision Zero by changing for-hire driving culture through specialized speeding enforcement, vehicle safety technology solutions, producing safety video from the victim's perspective "Drive Like Your Family Lives Here" for TLC driver training, now used in safety training nationwide, and enacting enforceable limits on driving hours to combat fatigued driving.
- Spearhead strategic deployment of over 200 enforcement officers citywide to enforce against illegal and unsafe activity.
- Improve vehicle inspection efficiency to maintain wait times and standards in the face of a 75% increase in vehicle inspections volume.

Operations & Technology

- Organizational restructuring to improve overall agency alignment with mission involving a range of employment consequences ranging from executive hiring and separations to broad union negotiations that effect hundreds of law enforcement officers.
- Modernize agency from paper to online licensing while simultaneously creating savings and keeping abreast of a 70% increase in demand for licenses.
- Institute continuous technology and analytics improvements to ensure ability to host, keep secure and analyze one of the City's largest data sets -- billions of daily trip records.

Communication

- Act as the face of the Commission and lead spokesperson and advocate on headline and politically complex issues at public meetings, panels, and on radio and TV.
- Ensure that public messaging and agency programs support agency reputation for objective good governance.
- Communicate to over 200,000 licensees easy to understand messages through text messaging, social media and thoughtful design.

Deputy Commissioner Legal Affairs, General Counsel (2011 - 2014)

- Fostered creative and innovative legal solutions to novel issues while ensuring that all agency action was within charter mandated mission.
- Ensured compliance with Open Meetings Law for all aspect of Commission action/communication.
- Navigated myriad legal challenges successfully to improve for hire service in New York City and regulation of over 200,000 licensees.
- Led dozens of complex and high profile negotiations resulting in landmark legislation and settlement agreements, including federal agreement to make 50% of the taxi fleet wheelchair accessible by 2020.
- Led all aspects of complex procurement processes including Requests for Proposals, vendor selection, multiparty contract negotiation and execution.
- Established new licensing standards and processes for emerging tech operators.
- Developed over 30 regulatory solutions to industry problems that streamlined service to the public, including dispatch system for disabled passengers, overhaul of in taxi payment system and outer borough taxi service.
- Spearheaded policies to deter employee misconduct and mete appropriate discipline for staff of 500+.

NEW YORK CITY CIVILIAN COMPLAINT REVIEW BOARD

2008 - 2011

First Deputy Executive Director

- Streamlined investigative process of 130-person unit annually conducting over 7,000 investigations of police misconduct; reduced case completion time by more than a month and increased prosecution rate by 35%.
- Developed solutions for critical issues in police misconduct cases, including stop and frisk.
- Oversaw negotiations with the NYPD for successful creation of independent prosecution unit, permanently expanding the agency's jurisdiction.

NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF INVESTIGATION

2002 - 2008

Inspector General / First Deputy, Correctional Services Unit

- Supervised timely and thorough investigation of 3,000+ allegations received per year of alleged criminality and corruption in the Departments of Correction, Probation, Juvenile Justice and Taxi and Limousine Commission.
- Led over 30 cases to state and federal criminal conviction of city employees and vendors for crimes including inmate assault, drug smuggling, conspiracy, bribery and fraud.
- Implemented policy for oversight agencies to curtail instances of corruption and excessive waste.

MORVILLO, ABRAMOWITZ, GRAND, IASON & SILBERBERG, P.C.

2000 - 2002

Associate

- Handled all aspects of criminal and civil litigation for representation of clients facing allegations of securities fraud and federal crimes: investigation, depositions, responding to subpoenas, motion practice, trial preparation, sentencing and plea negotiations.

LATHAM & WATKINS

1996 - 2000

Associate

- Practiced complex multistate civil litigation. Managed client relations, discovery, depositions, trial preparations and settlement negotiations.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

1997

The Honorable Ronald L. Buckwalter, Law Clerk

- Drafted judicial opinions for judge's civil caseload, and received permanent clerkship offer.

THIRD CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS - OFFICE OF THE STAFF ATTORNEY

1995

Staff Attorney

- Drafted Court of Appeals decisions on *pro se* constitutional claims and for individual circuit court judges.

EDUCATION

THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA LAW SCHOOL, Philadelphia, PA

J.D., 1995

Activities: Penn Legal Assistance Clinic, Philadelphia Law Forum, Morris Fellow Mentor

THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA, Philadelphia, PA

B.A., Sociology, cum laude, 1992

Honors Degree Recipient: Senior Project - Community Policing through Ministrations; Alpha Kappa Delta International Sociology Award

Admitted: New York State, October 1996.

OTHER

2018 NEWSMAKER OF THE YEAR - CRAIN'S NEW YORK BUSINESS

Named 2018 New York Newsmaker for setting national standard of regulation over app based transportation companies.