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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

Leahy & DeSmet, LLC **Managing Member** July 2006 to present.

Manage a women-owned, growing legal practice with a personal concentration in the following practice areas:

- Regulatory Compliance
- Administrative Law
- Ethics Laws
- Contract Disputes/Negotiations
- Government Relations
- General Business Litigation
- Real Estate
- Land Use/Building Code
- Environmental law
- Copyright and Trademark
- Entertainment Law
- Federal & State Election laws

Whiteford Taylor & Preston, L.L.P. **Of Counsel, Business Litigation Division** September 2001 to 2006.

Handled a broad range of complex business litigation matters. Examples include having successfully represented the Baltimore City Council in a redistricting challenge and a large asbestos and lead abatement company in federal debarment proceeding. Successfully defended CSX Transportation Inc. in a complex real estate matter in the Federal District Court of Maryland and another multi-million-dollar contract dispute in Prince George's County Circuit Court. Handled litigation involving land use and environmental issues, copyright and trademark infringement claims and state securities matters. Represented the Chapter 7 Trustee for Just For Feet Inc. in various adversary actions filed in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware. Advised clients and attorneys on state ethics laws and election laws. Handled pro bono cases involving women in need of civil protective orders.

Assistant United States Attorney for the District Of Maryland
Baltimore, Maryland, June 1999 - to June 2001.

Represented the United States in all aspects of defensive and affirmative civil litigation. Investigated claims and directed agency participation in developing affirmative actions against individuals and corporations that had defrauded the United States. Defensive cases included Bivens actions, Federal Tort Claims Act (including medical malpractice), employment discrimination, injunction matters, and subpoena proceedings. Engaged in all aspects of civil discovery, trials, mediation, and appellate proceedings in the United States District Court for the District of Maryland and the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.

Worked with numerous federal agencies, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the National Security Agency, the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Federal Bureau of Prisons, the United States Postal Service, the United States Marshals Service, and the United States Navy. In September 2001, the United States Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) gave me an award for my advocacy in *DiMartino v. Buckles*, 129 F. Supp. 2d 824 (D. Md. 2001), *affirmed*, 19 Fed. Appx. 114; 2001 U.S. App. LEXIS 20906 (4th Cir. 2001). *DiMartino* was one of the first cases upholding the firearms licensing provisions of the Brady Bill (The Federal Gun Control Act) in the federal courts.

Director, Office of Legal Counsel and Regulatory Affairs, Office of the Governor
Annapolis, Maryland, January, 1995 to June, 1999.

Served as chief legal counsel to former Maryland Governor Parris N. Glendening. Advised the Governor and the executive staff on all legal matters of State interest. Reviewed all requests for extradition, requisition, commutation and pardon. Drafted, reviewed, and testified on Administration bills and other proposed legislation. Drafted legal and policy memoranda, Governor's speeches, and letters. Handled media inquiries on legal issues and various policy matters with Governor's Press Office. Served as liaison to the Judiciary and as advisor to the Governor on judicial appointments. Served as ethics officer for the Governor's Office and as liaison to the State Ethics Commission.

Reviewed all proposed administration regulations. Initiated and supervised statewide regulatory reform initiatives, including reforms of the state procurement regulations, ethics laws, and Maryland Occupational Health and Safety regulations. Spearheaded the Administration's anti-gun violence initiatives, culminating in the passage of the 1996 Gun Violence Act.

Negotiated key contracts and projects for the State, including the purchase of Chapman's Landing and Deep Creek Lake. Spoke and presented statewide on behalf of the Governor on policy and legal issues, including smart growth and gun control initiatives. Supervised small staff of attorneys and worked closely with Cabinet Secretaries, the Attorney General's Office, and members of the General Assembly on all matters.

Special Assistant/Environmental Policy Advisor to the Prince George's County Executive, Upper Marlboro, Maryland, September 1992 to January 1995.

Supervised executive staff, drafted policy memoranda, speeches and letters for the County Executive. Served as Special Counsel to the County Attorney's Office, and as liaison with federal, state and local governments on environmental matters. Represented the County on the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee, and the Public Technology Urban Consortium Energy Task Force. Responsible for initiating and planning the County's Annual Environmental Excellence Awards Program.

Associate County Attorney, Prince George's County Attorney's Office
Upper Marlboro, Maryland, July 1989 to September 1992.

Served as lead counsel to the Department of Environmental Resources. Appeared before the Maryland Court of Appeals, the Court of Special Appeals, the Prince George's County Circuit and District Courts, and the Prince George's County Board of Appeals. Tried, briefed, and argued cases involving land use and zoning, contract disputes, stormwater management, solid waste management, nuisance, and other environmental issues. Responsibilities included enforcement of building code regulations, and drafting and reviewing County building and construction contracts. Provided legal counsel on the expansion of county landfills, the construction of a recycling facility, and the establishment of water quality programs. Successfully challenged thirty-year state law precedent on vesting of development/zoning rights in *Prince George's County v. Sunrise Dev. Ltd.*, 330 Md. 297; 623 A. 2d 1296 (1993).

Law Clerk, Maryland National-Capital Park and Planning Commission
Silver Spring, Maryland, July 1988 to July 1989.

Drafted motions, pleadings, contracts, and Montgomery County Planning Board Opinions.

ADMISSIONS:

Court of Appeals, Maryland 1989
United States District Court for the District of Maryland, 1993
United States Court of Appeals, Fourth Circuit, 2000

EDUCATION:

Washington College of Law, American University

Washington, D.C., Juris Doctor, May 1987.

1987 Jessup International Moot Court Competition First Place Brief

International Law Society: founded the WCL International Speakers Series.

Catholic University of America

Washington, D.C., Bachelor of Arts in Music and Politics, May 1983.

Dean's List

C.U.A. Women's Basketball Team, 1979- 1980

C.U.A. Tennis Team, 1980-1983

Mozarteum Academy of Music

Salzburg, Austria, January 1984 to July 1984.

Guest Student (non-degree), Piano Performance Division.

ACADEMIC INTERNSHIPS:

Organization of American States, Legal Affairs Division

Washington, D.C., September 1985 to May 1986.

Drafted legal recommendations concerning the protection of refugees in Central America.

Assistant to the Honorable Gerry Neale, Member of Parliament, House of Parliament

London, England, January 1982 to August 1982.

Researched and drafted statements and letters primarily on employment law and telecommunications issues. Assisted Mr. Neale in preparing for Question Times, committee sessions, and television interviews.

Research Assistant to Dr. James P. O'Leary, Catholic University

Washington, D.C., September 1982 to May 1983.

Assisted in initiating and completing published research on United States international economic policy and United States industrial productivity and intelligence.

PUBLICATIONS:

Author, The United Nations Role in International Regional Decision Making, Proceeding of the American Society of International Law: 1986 Summary Of Panel Proceedings.

Co-author, Water Quality: Stormy Water Management. MICPEL, 1992 Issues of Environmental Law.

Co-author, Smart Growth and Neighborhood Conservation, ABA, Natural Resources And Environment, Summer 1998.

Co-author, To Be or Not To Be – A Registered Lobbyist, *The Daily Record*, Friday, January 16, 2004.

Author, On Campaign Finance: Watch Out, Don't 'Max Out', *The Daily Record*,

Part I, February 3, 2006; Part II, February 6, 2006.
Co-author, Know Your Intellectual Property Rights,
The Business Monthly, March 2007
Co-author, Don't Get Caught in the Web Without Spinning Protection,
The Business Monthly, January 2009

BOARD MEMBERSHIPS AND PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS:

Public Technology Inc., Urban Consortium Task Force, 1992 – 1993.
Pallotti High School, Board of Directors, 1994 to 2000.
Women of Achievement in Maryland History, Inc., Board of Directors, 1995 to 2003.
Maryland State Commission on Criminal Sentencing Policy, 1997 – 1998.
Maryland State Bar Association, Administrative Law Section Council, 1998 to present;
Served as Chair 2007-2008.
Maryland Bar Foundation, Fellow, 1998 – present.
Maryland Catholic Conference, Administrative Board, appointed by
His Eminence James Cardinal Hickey, May 31, 2000 – October 2007.
Governor's Council on the Status of Girls, November 15, 2000.
Morton Street Dance Center Foundation Advisory Board, 2001 to 2003.
Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service, Fundraising Committee, 2003 – 2005.
J. Dudley Diggs Inns of Court, 2002 – present.
Baltimore-Washington Chamber of Commerce, Board of Directors, 2004 – 2007;
Government Affairs Committee, 2002 to 2007.
Maryland Judiciary, State-wide Business & Technology Case Management Program
Advisory Committee, 2004 – 2007.
St. Ambrose Housing Aid Center, Board of Directors, 2005 to 2006.
Maryland National Capital Building Industry Association, Board of Directors,
2006 – present.
Trial Courts Judicial Nominating Commission, Prince George's County, 2007 - present.
Women's Bar Association Foundation, Board of Directors, 2008 – present.
Chair, Finding Justice Project, 2008 – present.
Prince George's County Hospital Authority, 2008 – present.

AWARDS/HONORS

Award from the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms in recognition of my
advocacy in the Baltimore Gunsmith Firearms license case, 2001.
Named one of *The Daily Record's* Top 100 Women in Maryland in
2003; named again in 2007.
MSBA Resolution of Appreciation for Supervision of MSBA Oral History Project, 2004
Named among Maryland's top 40 Legal Elite by *Baltimore SmartCEO* Magazine in
2005; named again in 2006.
Listed in Maryland Super Lawyers, 2007, 2008 and 2009.

LANGUAGES:

German, Spanish

REPORTED OPINIONS:

- Sandler Systems, Inc. v. Slattery et. al*, 2008 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 105994 (D. Md. 2008)(finding that Maryland District Court could not exercise personal jurisdiction over certain Defendants in action alleging copyright and trademark violations.)
- Downes v. Downes*, 388 Md. 561, 880 A.2d 343 (2005)(holding that orphans' court, or a circuit court in a de novo appeal, does not have discretion to accept a surviving spouse's petition for extension of time to make an election to take an elective share when the petition is filed after the previous election period has already expired.)
- DiMartino v. Buckles*, 129 F. Supp. 2d. 824 (D. Md. 2001), *affirmed*, 19 Fed. Appx. 114; 2001 U.S. App. LEXIS 20906 (4th Cir. 2001). *DiMartino* was one of the first cases upholding the firearms licensing provisions of the Brady Bill (The Federal Gun Control Act) in the federal courts. Significantly, this case set a national precedent which finally enabled ATF to revoke the firearms license for Baltimore Gunsmith - - a leading source of illegal guns found at numerous crime scenes throughout the East Coast.
- Hurwitz v. Gunja*, 11 Fed. Appx. 349; 2001 U.S. App. LEXIS 13248, (4th Cir. 2001)(upholding federal district court's denial of federal prisoner's habeas petition under 28 U.S.C. § 2241.)
- Langerman v. Thompson*, 155 F. Supp. 2d. 490 (D. Md. 2001)(summary judgment granted for United States because employee failed to show that legitimate, non-discriminatory selection process was designed to discriminate against white men in general or the applicant in particular.)
- Shamsud'diyn v. United States*, 2001 U.S. Dist. Lexis 5601 (D. Md. 2001)(inmate's suit under Federal Tort Claims Act dismissed because the court lacked subject matter jurisdiction where complaint was not filed within two-year limitations period.)
- Cottman v. Rubin*, 2001 U.S. Dist LEXIS 3238 (D. Md. 2001)(summary judgment granted for United States where adverse employment action suffered by plaintiff was not based on any racial animus but on legitimate disciplinary grounds.)
- Reid v. Washington Overhead Door, Inc.*, 122 F. Supp. 2d 590 (D. Md. 2000)(plaintiff barred from recovery against United States for injuries suffered after he removed a stick which propped open garage door because his actions were contributorily negligent, and he assumed the risk of injury.)
- Kokotis v. United States Postal Serv.*, 223 F. 3d 275 (4th Cir. 2000)(upholding denial of claimant's administrative claims against a federal agency where the claimant failed to provide a timely demand for a sum certain as required by the Federal Tort Claims Act.)
- DeBlasio v. Moreno*, 2000 U.S. App. Lexis 13991 (4th Cir. 2000)
- Prince George's County v. Sunrise Dev. Ltd.*, 330 Md. 297; 623 A.2d 1296 (1993) (county was allowed to down-zone developer's proposed building project because the developer's rights, when viewed by a member of the general public, had not sufficiently vested in the project).