

CLAUDETTE V. FERRON

ferroncv@yahoo.com

LITIGATOR /REGULATORY & CORPORATE ATTORNEY / GENERAL COUNSEL

Former Assistant United States Attorney for Washington, D.C., and the Middle District of Louisiana, counsel for United States Senator Carl Levin (D. MI.), regulatory and corporate counsel for three Fortune 500" companies, and private practitioner for excellent small firms.

A top tier, high achieving, and experienced litigation regulatory and corporate attorney with specialist knowledge and experience in a full spectrum of legal solutions and negotiations with strong commercial acumen; able to assess business requirements, build relationships and manage teams efficiently. Adept at dealing with fast moving, politically charged, and highly challenging situations involving deals and conflicts across international boundaries. Strategic advisor and negotiator able to head large-scale, complex transactions for enterprise growth, compliance, and change management. Excels in client advocacy and representation in all forum including government administrative setting and public service commission, and Board actions and preparatory activities, corporate governance documentation, federal affairs, training, and joint ventures. Delivers winning strategy in adversarial and collaborative engagements, along with internal improvements for staff performance through effective and persuasive communication, management and supervision. Applies creative approach to resolve rising conflicts, avoid losses, and mitigate risk.

In depth experience handling challenging, complex civil and landmark criminal cases in state and federal, trial and appellate courts and sophisticated regulatory rate cases before various Public Service Commissions as co-counsel with and adverse to premier national law firms. Born in London England, educated in Europe, Canada and the Caribbean educated in London, United Kingdom (U.K.), Toronto, Ontario, Canada, Michigan and Washington, D.C. (U.S.) (Howard University School of Law). Traveled extensively, residing in major international cities, and bringing real world global perspective to professional and business undertakings of significant value to her clients.

Trial, Regulatory and Appellate Practice • Civil, Criminal and Rate Case Litigation • EEO/Title VII Employment Discrimination • Consumer Protection/TILA • Commercial and Real Estate Transactions • Contracts • Insurance Defense • Personal Injury • Criminal Prosecution & Defense Consulting • Foreclosure/REO • Risk Management • Legislative Analysis • Policy Development • Process Improvement Employee/Labor Relations • Family Law/ Domestic Relations • Client Relations and Presentations • Pretrial Investigation & e-Discovery • Attorney and Legal Staff Training and Management • Team Leadership/Motivation • Legal, Business and Creative Writing • Settlement Negotiations & Mediation • College/University Adjunct Professor

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

LAW OFFICE OF CLAUDETTE V. FERRON, ESQUIRE, Washington, D.C./U.S. VI.

Small firm handling litigation, transactional and regulatory matters for individuals and small to mid-size businesses.

Principal Attorney and Owner – practicing in all state, federal and appellate courts. Litigating and evaluating cases and developing/executing settlement and litigation strategies. Serve as first chair civil and criminal litigation, regulatory and transactional counsel, consistently implementing improved operational and employee management policies and procedures. Advise clients, corporate managers and executives on various legal issues including labor and employment/EEO and Title VII, TILA/consumer lending corporate operations, compliance, and response to government policies, regulations and actions. Representing insurance brokers and major carriers, incl. Travelers and AIG in coverage and liability cases. Drafting contracts, financial documents, letters, legal opinions, and real estate agreements; revising commercial leases, and preparing testimony/presentations for clients appearing before the state legislature and the Governor's Office on behalf of corporate clients. Speechwriting for former Pres. Cabinet member, Senators, and political/public figures. Expertise in trial and appellate practice, discovery and witness preparation, and document/electronic discovery review. Train, manage, and supervise staff, including associate attorneys, paralegals and legal secretaries. Additional experience teaching legal courses as Adjunct Professor and developing college/university legal studies curriculum. Also providing contract legal services.

Senior Policy Analyst – U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (Contract) – Washington, D.C., 2014 – Evaluate civil rights impacts of U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) policies and regulations on protected groups (women, racial, cultural and gender/sexual orientation minorities, persons with

disabilities and limited English proficient persons). Analyze proposed, interim, and final rules, advisory committees and agency reorganizations regulations. Provide advice and recommendations to executive level managers on civil rights impacts and impact mitigation. Formulate, revise, execute and monitor regulations, policies, and Departmental

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Manuals for the effective implementation of national civil rights and equal opportunity policies and programs of the USDA. Provide technical assistance on civil rights policy, and implementation of regulations to USDA sub-agencies, departments and offices and other external federal agencies.

Associate General Counsel - FREDDIE MAC (Assigned Counsel) McLean, VA, 2012 – Managed litigation, claims and disputes related to single-family loan and real estate owned portfolios; managed Designated Counsel Program; advised and assisted with policy and procedure development and responded to investigations/inquiries from government regulatory agencies, banks, other private and government financial institutions, Congressional Representatives and other parties regarding default mortgage servicing, incl. foreclosure, bankruptcy, eviction and REO settlement matters. Provided technical/legal expertise; key advisor on business/product decisions. Developed and maintained subject matter expertise and advised management and interacted with relevant third parties as the Company's advocate. Interacted with peers within the company and externally. Provided advice to internal clients regarding legal implications of emerging mortgage, foreclosure and eviction law issues and case, operating environment changes and company and business unit strategy. Provided legal advice related to development, modification and execution of company policies. Developed legal strategies to address emerging issues and cases in the area of mortgage, foreclosure and REO law – analyzing scenarios/data and acquiring in-depth knowledge of organizational objectives. Advised senior management on matters regarding functional areas, divisions, and customers service.

Achievements:

- Successfully litigated putative class action - complex commercial fraud and TILA case against global financial institutions Citibank and Citigroup; negotiated monetary settlements and ended regional predatory lending practices.
- Won reversal of wrongful murder conviction in complex 10 year federal appeal involving public corruption, resulting in exoneration of falsely convicted man after 17 years of incarceration.
- Won a multimillion-dollar annual rate and tariff increases for Marine Mass Transit clients, which provides public transportation to more than 2Million passengers before the regulatory commission, . resulting in new rates and regulatory strategies.
- Drafted new Transportation Trust Fund legislation providing foundation for sustainable public transportation funding.
- Won major insurance coverage cases including Director and Officer liability, post-catastrophic commercial/residential losses and two severe personal injury cases and averted multimillion-dollar verdicts and losses.
- Defended Legislature and individual Members against Title VII sexual harassment and employment discrimination cases, which resulted in the dismissal of all plaintiffs' major claims and avoided multimillion-dollar liability; negotiated nominal settlements.
- Prevailed in a major multimillion-dollar drug-trafficking and RICO defense case involving multiple defendants.
- *Guardian-ad-litem* for severely physically abused, molested and kidnapped infants and minors successfully representing them in the prosecution of the abuser, including a notorious pedophile.
- Created curriculum for a college level Pre-Law Studies program, meeting national accreditation requirements.
- Successfully managed major putative class action lawsuit developing strategies to minimize company's financial exposure and reputational risk.
- Successfully managed case involving 5Million property damage lawsuit resulting dismissal of all claims.
- Won dismissal of housing discrimination claim alleging racial profiling successfully avoiding company reputational risk and eliminating company's financial exposure.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, Washington, D.C., and Baton Rouge, LA United States' chief litigation and law enforcement attorneys.

Assistant United States Attorney - Prosecuted cases in the all state, federal and appellate courts. Conducted investigations before submission to the grand jury for prosecution, including case investigation and evaluation and

presented cases for indictment. Managed discovery, prepared witnesses, conducted research and prepared and delivered oral arguments of federal appellate cases before Federal Circuit Appellate Courts. Handled cases, oversaw new prosecutors and collaborated with federal law enforcement agency personnel, including DEA, FBI, ATF, ICE, U.S. Secret Service, and U.S. Coast Guard. Prosecuted cases in the areas of major drug-trafficking including multiton South American Cartel shipment cases and HIDTA cases, white collar crime, including major bank fraud, Class A felonies, and Federal Sentencing Guidelines application.

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Achievements:

- Prosecuted hundreds of cases and held a more than 95% win record.
- Appointed the Lead Prosecutor during divisional rotations.
- Successfully prosecuted a major bank and wire fraud case that prevented future losses.
- Successfully prosecuted multimillion-dollar drug-trafficking and RICO cases involving multi-ton shipments of cocaine from South America.
- Trained and supervised incoming Assistant U.S. Attorneys in case evaluations, management, litigation strategies and trial preparation and practice.

POTOMAC ELECTRIC POWER COMPANY, Washington, DC.

Major investor-owned regulated electric utility for Washington D.C. Metropolitan Area

Assistant General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel

Litigated civil cases in District of Columbia courts in the area of commercial, contract, and personal injury laws. Devised trial strategies and managed the complete lifecycle of cases from judgment to settlement. Drafted litigation motions and briefs and litigated regulatory and rate cases in electric utility law, and rate/tariff increases before the D.C. and Maryland Public Service Commissions. Advised the executive and management team on employer liability in personal injury cases. Reviewed cases handled by external counsel, advised regulatory and accounting experts and prepared expert and technical witnesses in rate and regulatory cases.

Achievements:

- Won protracted case averting several multimillion-dollar judgments in a personal injury case involving gas explosion.
- Prevailed in a major Rate case resulting in millions of dollars in increased revenue for the company. ● Developed and drafted contracts and consumer product documents used in energy efficiency rebates promoting energy efficiency and “green” energy use.

UNITED STATES SENATE - SENATE GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE OVERSIGHT OF GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT, Washington, DC.

United States Congress – Senate (Upper) Legislative Body

Counsel for Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management

Key advisor for Senator Carl Levin (D. MI.), Senators and the staff on the Governmental Affairs Committee on legal and legislative issues, including Social Security, Federal Tax Reform, and IRS procedures and practices, budgetary and appropriations matters, securities fraud, and interstate commerce legislation. Liaised with legislators and rallied support for initiatives. Reviewed and evaluated judicial and presidential nominees and drafted legislation for Taxpayer’s Rights, Regulatory Negotiation, Social Security Reform and Anti-Terrorism Laws. Prepared briefings, testimonies, speeches and floor statements. Organized and participated in Senatorial Congressional Hearings.

Achievements:

- Authored a major Senate report, The Role of the Administrative Law Judge in the Title II Social Security Disability Insurance Program, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C 25-979 O; performed extensive research on the policies of the Social Security Administration and the Disability Insurance Program. The report resulted

in major changes in the adjudication of Social Security Disability cases that positively impacted the health and welfare of millions of Americans

- Organized a major Senate Subcommittee hearing on the treatment of Disabled American during the Social Security Insurance review process and cross-examined witnesses; the hearings positively impacted the welfare of millions of disabled Americans.
- Drafted early Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) legislation that changed the landscape of regulatory agency dispute resolution and laid the foundation of current federal ADR laws.
- Drafted early anti-terrorism legislation.

THE DETROIT EDISON COMPANY, Detroit, MI.

Multi-billion dollar investor-owned regulated utility for Southeastern Michigan.

Assistant General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel

Specialized in employer liability, personal injury, with special emphasis in complex tort actions and employment discrimination. Litigated in state and federal courts, handled pre-trial investigation and discovery, trial preparation and

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practice, and drafted pleadings, motions, summary judgment and briefs. Devised trial strategy, negotiated settlements and reviewed cases handled by external counsel.

Achievements:

- Co-chaired crucial settlement of an in-house employment discrimination case involving hazing of an American employee.
- Successfully avoided million-dollar judgment eliminating reputational risk to corporation in major personal injury case.

EDUCATION

**Howard University School of Law, Washington, DC,
*Juris Doctor***

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**University of Toronto, Victoria College/Andrews University, Toronto, Canada/ Berrien Springs, MI  
*Bachelor of Science (w/Honors) - Sociology and Political Science***

**PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS**

U.S. Senate Report, *The Role of the Administrative Law Judge in the Title II Social Security Disability Insurance Program,* United States Government Printing Office Washington, D.C. 25-979-O

Prepared Speeches (Speechwriting) for Public figures including former Presidential Cabinet member and Senators – and Political candidates. Various - Federal Appellate Briefs - Various - Public Speaking Engagements – Lectures  
Food and Wine Articles – Online and Gastronomer Magazine – Poetry

**BAR ADMISSIONS**

District of Columbia; Michigan (*Inactive*)  
U.S. Virgin Islands (*U.S. District Court*)

**COMPUTER SKILLS**

MS Word, WordPerfect, Systran, Lexis-Nexis; West Law, Juris (DOJ  
Legal e-Research tools); Website development

### **LANGUAGES**

English • French and Italian (limited fluency)

### **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS**

District of Columbia Bar Association  
Washington Writer's Center; American Independent Writer's Association  
*La Chaîne Des Rôtisseurs - Chargée De Presse*  
PADI Scuba Diver Certification

*References and writing samples available upon request*