



**United States Attorney's Office for the
Eastern District of Washington**
in coordination with the
Spokane County Bar Association



presents

Federal Civil Rights: Issue Spotting and Enforcement

April 22, 2022

- 9:00 to 9:30 **Introduction and Overview of Expanded USAO Civil Rights Enforcement Presence in Eastern Washington**
U.S. Attorney Vanessa R. Waldref
- 9:30 to 10:30 **Fair Housing Act and Equal Credit Opportunity Act
Issue Spotting and Enforcement**
Asst. U.S. Attorney Tyler Tornabene
- 10:30 to 10:45 Break
- 10:45 to 11:45 **The False Claims Act and Housing**
Deputy Criminal Chief Dan Fruchter
- 11:45 to 1:00 Lunch (*on your own*)
- 1:00 to 2:00 **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
Issue Spotting and Enforcement**
Asst. U.S. Attorney Molly Smith
- 2:00 to 2:15 Break
- 2:15 to 3:15 **Civil Rights Act Title VII (Employment)
Issue Spotting and Enforcement**
Special Asst. U.S. Attorney Frieda Zimmerman
- 3:15 to 3:45 **Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) and
Servicemembers Civil Relief Act**
Asst. U.S. Attorney Joseph Derrig
- 3:45 to 4:15 **Civil Rights Act Title II (Public Accommodations)
Issue Spotting and Enforcement**
Asst. U.S. Attorney Tyler Tornabene
- 4:15 to 4:45 **Hate Crimes and Hate Incidents**
Asst. U.S. Attorney Tyler Tornabene
- 4:45 **Closing Remarks**

SPEAKER BIOS

United States Attorney Vanessa R. Waldref became the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Washington on October 7, 2021. U.S. Attorney Waldref was nominated by President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. on July 26, 2021, and was unanimously confirmed by the Senate on September 30, 2021. Ms. Waldref is responsible for overseeing the prosecution of any federal criminal case brought within the 20 counties of Eastern Washington. The Office also represents the United States in all civil matters brought within this territory.

Ms. Waldref is a native of Spokane with deep roots in Eastern Washington. Ms. Waldref served as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Washington from 2013 to 2020, handling a wide variety of civil and criminal cases. Most recently, U.S. Attorney Waldref served as a Trial Attorney with the Environment and Natural Resources Division of the United States Department of Justice where she litigated cases in federal courts around the country arising under a range of environmental protection statutes. Since 2015, Ms. Waldref has taught courses in Environmental Law, Labor & Employment Law, and Conflict of Laws at Gonzaga University School of Law.

Prior to her time at the Department of Justice, Ms. Waldref was a litigation associate at two Spokane-based law firms, Lee & Hayes and Lukins & Annis. She began her legal career as a litigation associate at Morrison & Foerster in Washington, DC. U.S. Attorney Waldref also served as a law clerk for The Honorable John D. Bates on the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

After graduating from Gonzaga Preparatory School in Spokane, WA, U.S. Attorney Waldref received her B.A., *magna cum laude*, from Georgetown University in 2002, and her J.D., *magna cum laude*, from Georgetown University in 2008.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Tyler Tornabene has been an Assistant United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Washington for the past 13 years. As an AUSA, Tyler has primarily focused on the investigation and prosecution of complex civil and criminal fraud including nationwide False Claims Act qui tam complaints, major health care fraud, fraud committed on billion-dollar federal contracts, and multi-defendant corporate criminal conspiracies. Tyler's federal criminal case load also includes interstate threats to kill, public corruption, environmental and natural resource crimes, and hate crimes. In 2017 Tyler was recognized for his outstanding work as a federal prosecutor with the Exceptional Service Award from the National Association of Former United States Attorneys.

Tyler is a 2003 graduate of Gonzaga University School of Law and began his legal career as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for Kitsap County, Washington, where he prosecuted a wide variety of crimes including domestic violence assaults, sexual assaults, robberies, and homicides. Tyler has conducted nearly 50 criminal and civil jury trials in his career as well as argued multiple times before the Ninth Circuit.

In addition to his criminal and civil fraud case load, Tyler also serves as the District's Civil Rights Coordinator for civil enforcement matters including Fair Housing Act enforcement, Americans with Disability Act enforcement, and enforcement of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Dan Fruchter is an Assistant United States Attorney currently serving as Deputy Criminal Chief of the Fraud & White-Collar Crime Unit and Criminal Civil Rights Coordinator for the Eastern District of Washington. As an AUSA, Dan handles complex criminal fraud and civil False Claims Act matters, as well as hate crime cases, color of law and professional misconduct, housing discrimination, and other civil rights matters. Dan has successfully tried and litigated numerous criminal fraud and False Claims Act cases in courts around the country, and has returned billions of dollars to the people of the United States through cases in which he has acted as lead attorney. Dan's efforts on behalf of the public have been repeatedly recognized by

partners and the legal community. He has been a recipient of the Arthur S. Fleming Award for Exceptional Government Service, the Federal Bar Association's Younger Federal Lawyer's Award; and numerous awards from the Department of Justice. Dan is also a current nominee for the National Association of Former U.S. Attorneys J. Michael Bradford Memorial Award.

Dan's entire legal career has been spent in public service. Prior to joining the USAO, he served as an AUSA in the Western District of Wisconsin, a Trial Attorney with DOJ's Civil Fraud Section, and a Trial Attorney with the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Dan is a graduate of the University of Maryland School of Law and Tulane University, and a product of America's greatest city, Brooklyn, New York.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Molly M.S. Smith is an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the civil division of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Washington. Prior to joining the Department of Justice, she clerked on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Washington for the Hon. Mary K. Dimke and the Hon. Thomas O. Rice. There, she assisted with magistrate hearings, judicial settlement conferences, reentry court proceedings, civil and criminal motion practice, and trial proceedings in district and magistrate court. Molly then clerked on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit for the Hon. Richard C. Tallman, where she worked on a variety of federal civil and criminal appeals. Molly is a graduate of Willamette University College of Law, where she handled civil rights cases as a student law clerk with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Oregon and with Disability Rights Oregon.

Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Frieda Zimmerman is a Special Assistant United States Attorney with the Office of Inspector General – Department of Energy. Stationed in the Eastern District of Washington, she litigates criminal and civil fraud cases, with a focus on contractor fraud at the Hanford Department of Energy site. In addition to her work in the Eastern District, Frieda provides litigation and investigatory support for Department of Energy matters across the United States.

Previously, Frieda served as an Assistant Attorney General in the Spokane Division of the Washington State Attorney General's Office. There, she litigated civil cases in the Torts section, defending state agencies, officers, and employees in state and federal courts. The majority of her cases involved claims pertaining to highway design, injuries on state property, employment, and civil rights. She previously worked in the Labor & Industries section, successfully representing the Washington State Department of Labor & Industries in front of the Board of Industrial Insurance Appeals, Office of Administrative Hearings, and various superior courts. Prior to joining the Attorney General's Office, Frieda worked for a Spokane law firm litigating cases on behalf of cities, counties, and school districts involving employment issues, civil rights, and tort allegations.

Frieda graduated from cum laude from Gonzaga University School of Law in Spokane, Washington in 2013. While in law school, she worked as a legal extern for Northwest Justice Project in the CLEAR-DV program, served as a law clerk in the United States Attorney's Office, and was an Associate Editor for the Gonzaga Law Review.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Joseph P. Derrig is an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Eastern District of Washington. Prior to joining the United States Attorney's Office, he graduated magna cum laude of Gonzaga School of Law and began his legal career in private practice. Before law school, Joe served in the United States Air Force as a Survival Evasion Resistance and Escape (SERE) Specialist at Fairchild Airforce Base, and was deployed in support of OIF and OEF. He currently serves on the board of the Washington State Veterans Bar Association and as a Lawyer Representative to the Ninth Circuit. He has litigated or investigated over 25 civil rights cases within the Eastern District of Washington including those under the ADA, FHA, Title VII, 42 U.S.C. § 3631, 18 U.S.C. § 242, and 18 U.S.C. § 241.