

HARSHA PANDURANGA

contact@hpandu.com • New York, NY

EXPERIENCE

Law & Public Policy Consultant, New York, NY

Independent

2023; 2025-Present

- Generated policy prescriptions and advised on the tailoring of public opinion surveys to inform an NGO's national strategy regarding the development and advocacy of potential state and local ballot initiatives responsive to changes in federal policy.
- Drafted model policy regime to orient coalitional advocacy and public education efforts to reduce profiling by federal authorities across a range of security-related activities, considering factors such as practicality, data availability, enforceability, and implementation.
- Compiled comprehensive regulatory comment regarding the Department of Homeland Security's proposal to collect social media identifiers from people applying for immigration benefits, covering procedural, constitutional, and policy issues.
- Researched and provided in-depth analysis on matters such as the intersection of immigration enforcement and the First Amendment and the use of secret evidence in adjudicative proceedings.

Brennan Center for Justice at NYU Law, New York, NY

Counsel, Liberty & National Security

2017-2022

- Authored or co-authored policy reports and proposals relied upon by decision-makers covering topics such as social media surveillance, privacy protections connected to the use of cell phone location data for public health purposes, the empirical flaws and constitutional harms of certain terrorism and violence risk assessment programs, and reforms to the Department of Homeland Security.
- Advised Congress and the executive branch on the civil liberties impacts of counterterrorism measures. Provided drafting assistance on pertinent legislative proposals and developed transparency measures that became law.
- Served as counsel on cases employing novel litigation strategies to challenge blanket bans on travel to the U.S. and the federal government's dragnet monitoring of social media.
- Conducted research and advocacy intersecting with companies' moderation of content on issues ranging from terrorism and hate speech to election integrity, including analysis of substantive platform rules, corresponding adjudicative infrastructures, the applicability of U.S. and E.U. regulations, and the use of technology to operationalize removals.
- Appeared at live events and on television, wrote and commented in media outlets including The Atlantic, Politico, Los Angeles Times, NBC News, The Guardian, and NPR.

Realtime Data Interfaces, New York, NY

Co-founder

Founded 2022

- Co-founded Realtime, a technology and journalism platform that provides contemporaneous data-based context for current events, with responsibilities ranging from legal and compliance to product design and execution.
- Engaged leading media organizations such as Bloomberg and the New York Times as initial product evaluators, and received positive public feedback at SXSW from a New York Times editorial director.
- Set up the company to do business and obtain required registrations. Evaluate and manage legal exposure, particularly on data privacy and copyright issues.
- Contribute to product management and development, working on matters such as large language model calibration, the maintenance of informational pipelines feeding the platform, and the identification and curation of data on the service.

Simpson Thacher & Bartlett, New York, NY

Litigation Associate

2015-2017

- Developed case facts, researched law, and prepared client in an individual representation related to a U.S. Department of Justice investigation.
- Drafted amicus brief on the First Amendment concerns raised by the overextension of federal anti-racketeering laws.
- Managed discovery, drafted pleadings and pre-trial documents, and supervised staff attorneys in various litigation matters.

EDUCATION

University of Michigan Law School, J.D., cum laude, 2015

Honors & Activities: Independent Research, Rap Lyrics in Criminal Trials and Equal Protection

Participant, Campbell Moot Court

1L Tutor, Michigan Law Tutoring Program

University of Michigan, B.A. in Political Science and History, with distinction, 2012

Honors & Activities: Phi Beta Kappa

James B. Angell Scholar

White House Intern

Senior Editor, The Michigan Daily

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- Panduranga, Harsha, and Faiza Patel. Stronger Rules Against Bias. Brennan Center for Justice, 2022, <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/policy-solutions/stronger-rules-against-bias>.
- Patel, Faiza, Rachel Levinson-Waldman, and Harsha Panduranga. A Course Correction for Homeland Security: Curbing Counterterrorism Abuses. New York: Brennan Center for Justice, 2022, <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/course-correction-homeland-security>.
- Panduranga, Harsha. Community Investment, Not Criminalization. Brennan Center for Justice, 2021, <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/community-investment-not-criminalization>.
- Panduranga, Harsha; Laura Hecht-Felella; and Raya Koreh. Government Access to Mobile Phone Data for Contact Tracing. New York: Brennan Center for Justice, 2020, <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/government-access-mobile-phone-data-contact-tracing>.
- Panduranga, Harsha. Extreme Vetting and the Muslim Ban. New York: Brennan Center for Justice, 2017, <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/extreme-vetting-and-muslim-ban>.
- Patel, Faiza; Rachel Levinson-Waldman; Douglas Keith; and Harsha Panduranga. Trump-Russia Investigations: A Guide. New York: Brennan Center for Justice, 2017, <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/trump-russia-investigations-guide>.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Member of the New York Bar, admitted 2016

Community Advisory Board Member, Surveillance Technology Oversight Project (S.T.O.P.)

Co-Chair (Former), ABA National Security and Civil Liberties Committee