

Megan Thorsfeldt

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Passionate advocate for social and economic justice bringing over 15 years of experience in project management and capacity building; translating research, analysis and investigations to project design, implementation, and coordination. Consensus builder with experience across non-profit, labor, and government settings.

EXPERIENCE

Center for Applied Research on Work, Cornell ILR School, Ithaca, New York October 2023 - Present

Associate Director

Leading the development of innovative research and collaborations addressing the challenges facing today's complex labor markets

- Responsible for strategic planning, organizational resourcing, and program development across the institute
- Constructing critical tools to connect research with external stakeholders and policy makers
- Supporting institute initiatives, member institutes, and affiliated faculty through strategic capacity and support

New York State Office of the Attorney General, New York, NY

May 2018 – September 2023

Deputy Director of Research and Analytics

Acting Director June - September 2023

Led the first team of data scientists and analysts at a state Attorneys General Office to provide rigorous statistical and analytic support to high priority cases and investigations covering all areas of the Office's work

- Responsible for management of ten person team including designing and leading recruitment, staff development and training programs as well as directly supervising range of staff from new graduate hires to highly experienced technical staff
- Coordinates department staff and resources to manage projects with senior staff and bureaus as well as inter-agency partners at the municipal, state, and federal levels
- Develops analytic roadmaps to investigate illegality, determining the appropriate analysis to conduct relative to the Office's jurisdiction, statutory authority, investigative interests, and remediation goals
- Supports investigations from lead generation through investigative process, settlement negotiations, and legal filings
- Briefs the Attorney General, senior staff, and bureaus on department findings and their implications
- Advises bureaus about analytic approaches on a wide array of cases, with extensive experience in: labor; civil rights; housing; environmental protection; consumer protection; healthcare; antitrust; technology; and others
- Develops strategic growth avenues for increasing data capacity in the department and across the organization through trainings, cross-bureau collaboration, and product integration initiatives
- Facilitates opportunities to collaborate with partner agencies and universities exploring data driven governance including regular guest lectures at New York University and Yeshiva law clinics and New York University graduate statistics seminars
- Works on cases with broad state and national implications including lawsuits to stop the Trump administration from making ICE arrests at state courthouses, forcing employers to pay for wage theft and intimidation, and protecting consumers from misleading marketing and other deceptive practices including industry wide settlements with internet service providers and restitution to consumers of \$174 million
- Supports complex multi-state litigation with data driven insights including the successful opioid case against distributors and manufacturers resulting in billions of dollars in damages recovery for New York State restitution
- Grew department by 100%, increasing specialized skillsets, capacity, staff development, and retention

1199SEIU, New York, NY

2011 – 2018

Assistant Director of Research

Previous Titles: Lead Researcher; Senior Researcher; Researcher

Led the department in overall strategic capacity, staffing, and human resource investment, while overseeing the work of the long-term care research team supporting collective bargaining and new organizing, at the largest private sector union local in the country.

- Developed strategic campaigns with executive leadership and managed a research team responsible for supporting union-wide campaigns across all regions, resulting in the successful new organizing campaigns and contract wins in hospitals, nursing homes, and homecare companies.
- Led the union's research for nursing home bargaining in New York State, representing tens of thousands of nursing home members covered under contracts with the League of Voluntary Hospitals and Nursing Homes, the Greater New York Nursing Homes, and the Group of 56, among others
- Advised Union Trustees and Counsel to 1199SEIU UHWE Benefit and Pension Funds and the Greater New York Pension and Benefit Funds
- Provided ongoing analysis on all aspects of healthcare system: reimbursement models; quality initiatives; and regulatory challenges in state and federal regimes
- Presented findings to internal and external stakeholders, working with coalition partners, lawyers, and government officials toward proposal implementation
- Assist in department coordination and growth through the creation of training materials, staff development frameworks, hiring protocols, the creation of diversity equity and inclusion programs, and exploring tools to facilitate departmental communication and cohesion

Local 32BJ SEIU, New York, NY

2010 – 2011

Policy & Research Intern

- Analyzed economic development and procurement policy legislation while conducting strategic research.
- Developed economic development policy proposals for city and state legislators
- Conducted industry research and created advocacy materials to support organizing and contract campaigns
- Drafted policy briefs on areas of on disabled set-aside contracting, infrastructure initiatives, and housing rights issues

Milano School of International Affairs, Management, & Urban Policy, New School University

2008 – 2009

Urban Policy Program Assistant

- Conducted research on issues of immigrant diasporas and human capital investment for Dr. Tatiana Wah
- Assisted department in assessing goals for outreach and engagement

Defend Oregon Coalition, Portland, OR

2006

Field Manager

- Defeated Measure 41, a harmful tax cut that would have decreased funds available for government services, by training over 200 community leaders to conduct GOTV efforts

Grassroots Campaigns, Portland, OR & New York, NY

2006

Field Organizer

- Organized MoveOn members through the Call for Change Campaign and participated in the field implementation of the DNC's 50 State Organizing Plan

EDUCATION

Milano the New School for Management and Urban Policy

May 2010

M.S. in Urban Policy Analysis and Management

University of Oregon

June 2006

B.A. in Political Science, Minors in History & English

PUBLICATIONS & SAMPLE of PRESS RELEASES for MAJOR PROJECTS

(2024) "[Attorney General James Wins Landmark Victory in Case Against Donald Trump](#)" New York State Office of the Attorney General

(2024) "[Attorney General James Announces Historic Judgement Against Predatory Lender](#)" New York State Office of the Attorney General

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(2023) "[Racial Disparities in Homeownership: How lending practices have prevented New Yorkers of color from purchasing homes and deepened wealth inequality](#)" New York State Office of the Attorney General

(2023) "[Attorney General James Scores Major Victory for Small Businesses Harmed by Predatory Lender](#)" New York State Office of the Attorney General

(2023) "[Attorney General James Secures \\$462 Million from JUUL for Its Role in the Youth Vaping Epidemic](#)" New York State Office of the Attorney General

(2022) "[Attorney General James Secures Over \\$3 Million from Home Health Agency for Cheating Workers and Medicaid Fraud](#)" New York State Office of the Attorney General

(2022) "[Attorney General James Sues Donald Trump for Years of Financial Fraud](#)" New York State Office of the Attorney General

(2021) "[Attorney General James Sues Rensselaer County Board of Elections for Denying Communities of Color Access to Early Voting Sites](#)" New York State Office of the Attorney General

(2021) "[Attorney General James and NYC Department of Consumer and Worker Protection Recover Up to \\$18.8 Million in Unpaid Wages for 12,000 Home Health Aides](#)" New York State Office of the Attorney General

(2021) "[Attorney General James Announces Proposed \\$26 Billion Global Agreement with Opioid Distributors/Manufacturer](#)" New York State Office of the Attorney General

(2020) "[AG James Sues Trump Administration Over Unlawful Regulations Restricting Coronavirus-Based Paid Sick Leave](#)" New York State Office of the Attorney General

(2020) "[Preliminary Report on the New York City Police Department's Response to Demonstrations Following the Death of George Floyd](#)," New York State Office of the Attorney General

(2020) "[Attorney General James Leads Coalition Fighting to Halt Immigration Arrests at State Courthouses](#)" New York State Office of the Attorney General

(2020) "Declaration of Megan Thorsfeldt" State of New York and Eric Gonzalez v. United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Second Declaration, Civil Action No. 19-cv-08876-JSR

(2020) "Declaration of Megan Thorsfeldt" State of New York and Eric Gonzalez v. United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Civil Action No. 19-cv-08876-JSR

(2020) "Declaration of Megan Thorsfeldt" State of New York v. United States Department of Labor, 20-CV-3020 (JPO)

(2020) "[Attorney General James Sues Wholesaler for Price Gouging During the Coronavirus Pandemic](#)" New York State Office of the Attorney General

(2018) "[A.G. Underwood Announces Record \\$174.2 Million Consumer Fraud Settlement With Charter For Defrauding Internet Subscribers](#)" New York State Office of the Attorney General

(2015) "The Crisis in Nursing Home Staffing: How to Achieve Safe Staffing in New York," 1199SEIU UHE New York, NY, unpublished.

(2010) "Reforming the Preferred Source Program to Empower New Yorkers with Disabilities," Local 32BJ

SEIU, New York, NY, unpublished.

(2009) "Assessing the Transparency and Accountability of New York City's Department of Education,"
Authored on behalf of the Citizens Budget Commission, New York, NY, unpublished.

PRESENTATIONS & LECTURES

(2019 - 2022) "Data Science for Social Impact Office of the Attorney General" New York University Applied Statistics, New York, NY.

(2021) "Work Smarter, Not Harder: Using Data in Charity Enforcement" National Association of Attorneys General & The NAAG Training and Research Arm, New York, NY.

(2021) "Data Analytics and Investigations" Cardoza Law School Social Justice Division Clinic, New York, NY.

(2019 - 2020) "Data Analytics and Investigations" New York Law School Social Justice Externship, New York, NY.

(2018) "Data Analysis in Public Policy: A Panel Discussion," Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs Computing in Context Course, New York, NY.

(2017) "Challenges in the New York Nursing Home Industry," 1199SEIU UHE Greater New York Bargaining Committee Meeting, New York, NY.

(2017) "Challenges in the New York Nursing Home Industry," 1199SEIU UHE Group of 52 Bargaining Committee Meeting, New York, NY.

CERTIFICATES & AWARDS

(2023) "Raddie for Life Award" Research and Analytics Department, Office of the New York Attorney General, New York, NY.

(2022) "Superior Service Award" Office of the New York Attorney General, New York, NY.

(2021) "Superior Service Award" Office of the New York Attorney General, New York, NY.

(2018) Data Science Certificate, General Assembly, New York, NY.

ADDITIONAL SKILLS

Familiarity with SQL, Python, Docker, Git, Statistics