

Sarah Dodd – Dallas, Texas



PROFESSIONAL BIOGRAPHY

Sarah Dodd is a savvy media relations expert and award winning former journalist. Dodd spent more than a decade working as a television news journalist, and in 2007 she founded Dodd Communications, specializing in Media Strategy, Crisis Communications, Public Affairs and Community Relations. As a journalist, Ms. Dodd covered local, state and national politics. She worked as a television anchor/reporter in Dallas, Texas for seven years and during that time her investigative work led to one of the largest federal corruption investigations in the history of Dallas politics. While working for the CBS owned television station in Dallas, Dodd traveled to Kuwait, Iraq, South Korea, China and Guantanamo Bay. She was proud to be an embedded reporter, spending the first month of the war in Iraq.

During her decade long career as a television news reporter and anchor, Ms. Dodd earned the coveted Edward R. Murrow Award for Excellence in Journalism, multiple EMMY nominations, and the Iron Horse Award from the U.S. Army for Fair and Balanced news coverage. Dodd has also been a regular guest lecturer at Southern Methodist University's School of Journalism.

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I was born in Dallas, Texas and although I have traveled all over the world, I am still proud to call Dallas home. To me there is nothing more thrilling than visiting a new place and learning about the history and culture of the area. One of the reason's I loved being a journalist was the exposure to foreign lands and concepts- each day offered a new opportunity for learning and knowledge. I am an only child and have been married for six years to David Kunkle, the former Chief of Police in Dallas. We have two rescue dogs named Ruby and Bella.

PROFESSIONAL INTEREST FORM:

Personal Objective 1: Develop and build strong relationships with Europeans who will potentially be doing business with municipalities in the United States (specifically Texas). Through my business, I know there is an incredible value I can add to companies exploring economic development opportunities in the US. Conversely, there are many US businesses eager to invest in Europe. I would like to build relationships during the Fellowship that can help both sides of the equation maximize success on potential projects. Potential meetings would include companies planning on starting new ventures in the United States.

Personal Objective 2: Build relationships with European Public Relations and Crisis Communications Firms. I would like to learn how Issues Management and PR is handled in Europe, but I would also like to build those relationships so I can eventually help European Firms with client issues in the United States. Potential meetings would include high level executives at Crisis Communications or Public Relations/Public Affairs companies.

Personal Objective 3: Spend time with European print and/or broadcast journalists. This could include US network reporters stationed in Europe (for example, CBS News, ABC, NBC, CNN, etc.) or potentially BBC reporters, in addition to local print journalists. Journalism is changing quite a bit in the United States and I would like to explore how professional journalists working in Europe are interpreting those changes. I worked as a journalist for more than a decade, but my current business demands that I have daily contact with journalists. This is a wonderful opportunity to hear a unique perspective on the industry.

Kate McAdams – Chicago, Illinois



PROFESSIONAL BIOGRAPHY

Kate McAdams is the Executive Director for The Pritzker Traubert Family Foundation (PTFF) which invests in people and programs that enrich the life experiences of Chicago's children. With a strong focus on improving schools, the foundation seeks leaders, programs and ideas that will positively impact student learning. In addition to education, the Foundation extends its support to programs that promote health and fitness and an appreciation of arts and culture. Prior to PTFF, Ms. McAdams served as a policy analyst in the Office of Mayor Richard M. Daley (City of Chicago) and was responsible for implementing public-private partnerships across various policy areas; creating new initiatives to expand access to technology; leading the City's multi-year 2010 Census count effort; and streamlining government processes through performance

management. Ms. McAdams' philanthropic pursuits include Yale Women's Ice Hockey, St. Ignatius College Prep and she is on the Board of Directors of Urban Initiatives, a health and education soccer program in Chicago Public Schools. Ms. McAdams is a lifelong Chicagoan and graduated with a B.A. in Anthropology from Yale University and has a Masters in Business Administration from Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management.

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I was born and raised in Chicago and have lived in New Haven, CT and Boston, Massachusetts. I consider myself an athlete (well, mostly retired now) and played many sports growing up. I played ice hockey in college and continue to play once a week now in Chicago. I believe sports have helped me to be competitive, ambitious, health conscious, comfortable with all types of people and have forced an ability to manage multiple tasks at one time. I'm involved with a non-profit that uses soccer to teach health and wellness, academic commitment and character development – all things I believe sport can help achieve, and is much needed in the very underserved Chicago Public School system. I enjoy learning and meeting people, and I ask a lot of questions. I am a people person and love to try the newest restaurants and bars. I feel lucky to have worked in city government and been able to make a direct, positive impact on the city and its residents, and after 1.5 years in philanthropy, I am energized to continue to work to make Chicago an even greater city.

PROFESSIONAL INTEREST FORM:

Personal Objective 1: Basic trans-Atlantic understanding: I want to learn about the current successes and challenges faced by the cities I am visiting - across political, social and cultural lenses, and how the US is viewed within these frameworks. Meetings with local government officials, corporate leaders and cultural leaders. Specific topics - how is job creation promoted; how do the education systems work; what is the role of local government vs. state vs. federal; how does "innovation" incorporate into local business and NGOs. Visit key tourist attractions - how do they affect the local economy? how does history impact the present?

Personal Objective 2: Make lasting connections - with Fellows and some of the European leaders we meet. This will require me to be pro-active about getting to know my travel companions - their role/life in the US, as well as speakers who intersect with my personal and professional interests.

Personal Objective 3: How can Chicago be impacted by my personal experience with the Fellowship? I want to translate learnings (from Fellowship talks/tour and from the Fellows) to my current position in philanthropy and consider how the experience can impact my civic life (e.g. Boards I join; volunteerism) and other civic engagement with the City of Chicago and the non-profit community.

Nora Romanoff – Cleveland, Ohio



PROFESSIONAL BIOGRAPHY

Nora Romanoff is Senior Project Director of LAND studio, a Cleveland, Ohio based nonprofit dedicated to creating places and connecting people through public art, sustainable building and design, collaborative planning, and dynamic programming. As Senior Project Director, Nora directly oversees LAND studio's staff, setting project priorities and interfacing with clients, and serving as lead on a select number of major initiatives. Recent examples of projects Nora has overseen include: The Group Plan Commission; LAND studio's partnership with Neighborhood Progress Inc.; park and greenspace planning; Uptown Public

Spaces and the Greater University Circle Initiative; and the redesign of Public Square. Nora previously served in a similar capacity at LAND studio's parent organizations, ParkWorks, and played a major role in guiding the organization through its 2011 merger. Nora is a life-long advocate for strong communities and is dedicated to breathing new life into neighborhoods through her professional and volunteer efforts. Her personal interests and professional work are motivated by her love of the City of Cleveland, where she also resides with her husband and two children.

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My personal interests and professional work are inspired by my love for the amazing City of Cleveland. Beautiful and inspiring design and the people that create it move me. My desire is to have an impact on how people feel when they experience a truly special space. My work life revolves around landscape, art, neighborhoods and development as I work daily to weave Cleveland together with beautiful spaces. I am an avid supporter of farmer's markets and local foods, independent shops and traveling to new and well-loved cities. I love to cook and to explore Cleveland's wonderful restaurant scene. I seek out new music and revel in sharing anything I hear with those around me. I scour the internet, the city and lively conversations learning about new art, design, landscape, events and creativity that motivate and move people to explore and create even more. I strive to teach my kids in as many languages as possible that life is about discovering, asking, making and doing.

PROFESSIONAL INTEREST FORM:

Personal Objective 1: On a professional level, I would love to discover in each city the type of organization or collaborative partner I might work with or learn from here at home. How are public spaces improved and programmed abroad and how does each organization address some of the human factor issues; improving the standard of living and making spaces beautiful and the city strong.

Personal Objective 2: I hope to discover the creative class in the cities I visit. Life motivates artists and designers to create and I think that would be an amazing way to get to know even a small portion of these new places I will visit. Is there an artist's co-op? A design firm that builds public parks or installs public art? Perhaps there's an art house that teaches children to get their hands dirty and their clothes messy as they discover how to express themselves on a creative level? We are moved by where we live - for better or for worse.

Personal Objective 3: Conversely, I would like to engage with emerging professionals from other professions to challenge my way of thinking, to better understand policy and the government/non government partnerships from fellows and in the cities visited. A major objective is to get new motivation and inspiration.

Vishali Singal – San Francisco, California



PROFESSIONAL BIOGRAPHY

Vishali Singal is an associate in the Litigation practice at DLA Piper LLP (US). Her work has focused on corporate internal investigations; advising corporations on compliance issues, including anti-corruption and securities laws; financial services disputes; and environmental transactional advice. Ms. Singal also provides pro bono support to Public Advocates, Inc., a nonprofit civil rights law firm and advocacy organization in San Francisco, in the areas of affordable housing and fair housing law. Prior to joining DLA Piper, Ms. Singal practiced as a visiting attorney at Public Advocates, where she engaged in litigation strategy and policy development in the areas of affordable housing, fair housing, land use and environmental law.

Ms. Singal is an alumna of the New York City Urban Fellows program, where she served as a policy aide to a New York City Commissioner in Mayor Bloomberg's administration. She completed her Bachelor in Architecture and Master in City and Regional Planning at the University of California, Berkeley, and her Juris Doctor at the University of California, Hastings College of the Law.

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I am a California native, the daughter of immigrants from India. I was born in Santa Clara and raised in the state's capital, Sacramento. I now consider myself an official San Franciscan, having lived here for seven and a half years to pursue graduate school and a career in law. Outside of that career, I enjoy the arts in every form, both visual and musical. My love of the art and design world compelled me to study architecture in college, and I enjoy listening to all genres of music (some of which I attempt to learn on my piano!) I also try to take advantage of all San Francisco has to offer - a beautiful City to walk around, to try new cuisines and wine bars, and to enjoy the beautiful outdoors, including Napa Valley and running along the Embarcadero. And although I no longer live in Sacramento, I travel to my hometown regularly to visit with my parents, my older brother and sister-in-law, and my two adorable baby nephews.

PROFESSIONAL INTEREST FORM:

Personal Objective 1: The impact of Europe's fiscal crisis on real estate is necessary to understand the direction of Europe's urban growth, trends on household equity, and the steps taken to address the challenges faced by these households. I would like to learn from community leaders and local officials what policies have been developed to address the real estate downturn, and how they have been tailored to particular types of real estate markets. This information will be instructive in my research and policy development work in the urban planning domain within California. A city planner or affordable housing organization could provide key perspectives.

Personal Objective 2: California has some of the strictest environmental laws in the nation, including the California Environmental Quality Act and the Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act. I have learned that one of the most difficult challenges to their effectiveness is the ability to enforce them. I would like to explore how Europe is addressing climate change and environmental issues, whether their laws and/or policies are developed at the local, national, or regional level, what they look like, how their success is measured, and the design of their enforcement mechanisms.

Personal Objective 3: Given the interconnectedness of European countries and their cities and towns to one another, through their economic and political systems and their spatial proximity, I would like to understand whether, and if so, to what degree, these countries rely upon regional government policies, specifically as to land-use planning and transportation. Although regional bodies are involved in land-use and transportation planning in California, enforcement authority resides for the most part at the city, state, and federal levels.

Rick Smotkin – Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



PROFESSIONAL BIOGRAPHY

Rick Smotkin currently serves as Vice President of Government Affairs for Comcast. In this role, Rick is responsible for the strategy and implementation of the Companies Intergovernmental affairs at the State and Local levels. In addition, Rick oversees all employee grassroots activities and works closely with external affairs to leverage Comcast's third party relations. Prior to joining Comcast, Rick worked for the International Republican Institute in East Timor as the Resident Program Officer. Rick oversaw a staff of 15 and a budget of \$1.5 million. Rick directed a politically sensitive democracy building project focusing on political party development, electoral research and analysis, governance and local NGO support. Rick worked closely with USAID, the US Embassy, the UN Mission and other international donor organizations in East Timor. He also developed and implemented the first ever national political opinion poll in East Timor. Before moving to East Timor, Rick managed the successful reelection of Delaware Attorney General Jane Brady and also served in the Administration of then Mayor Rudy Giuliani and served on the staff of then Senator John Ashcroft. Rick received his BA in Political Science from Washington University in St. Louis and his MA in Political Management from George Washington University in Washington DC.

PERSONAL BIOGRAPHY

I was born in Los Angeles, California. Most of my work career has been spent on the east coast in DC, NYC and Philadelphia. I did spend two years in East Timor which had a huge impact on my life. Seeing the world from such a different perspective changed my outlook on what is important and what we need to value as a society. Outside of politics my passions are food, travel and sports. I currently live in Philadelphia with my wife Susana and our two children Lev and Talia.

PROFESSIONAL INTEREST FORM:

Personal Objective 1: I am very interested in learning more about broadband deployment in other developed nations as well as any digital divides in these countries. As an executive with Comcast I am mindful of Comcast's role in providing access to information throughout the United States—and the fact that access to information and ideas are essential methods for protecting, and expanding democracy in the 21st century. While Comcast is the largest Internet service provider in America, the company is often criticized for cost and speeds compared to Europe and Asia.

Personal Objective 2: Another topic I would like to further explore is how European nations feel about both America's role in nation building and what role Europe should be playing in developing nations throughout the world. As the Arab Spring progressed this past year, this has become an even more important question for our respective nations to address. I would also like to discuss Muslim relations throughout Europe.

Personal Objective 3: The final objective I would love to pursue is a focus on food and drink. I believe the best way to really understand a people and their culture is to live life the way they do. I have a passion for food and would love the opportunity to learn about the food cultures of these countries.