BROOKINGS

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Kenneth H. Zimmerman

Kenneth H. Zimmerman is a Member of the Lowenstein Sandler Litigation Group. A noted civil rights attorney, Mr. Zimmerman's practice focuses on the strategic direction and implementation of the firm's pro bono and public advocacy initiatives. He recently served as a member of the Presidential Transition Team preparing the new Administration's activities related to the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and served a four-month stint as a Senior Advisor to Secretary Donovan following the inauguration. He also has an appointment as a Senior Non-Resident Fellow at the Brookings Institute's Metropolitan Policy Program.

Prior to joining Lowenstein Sandler, Mr. Zimmerman served as Chief Counsel to New Jersey Governor Jon S. Corzine (2006-2008), where he and his staff were responsible for legislative matters, judicial and prosecutorial appointments, and the oversight of the state's many independent commissions and authorities. During his tenure, the state undertook initiatives to reduce and reform property taxes, upgrade ethics requirements, combat crime, and reform the state's school funding system. Mr. Zimmerman was the founding Executive Director of the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice, a Newark-based urban advocacy and research organization. Under his leadership (1999-2006), the Institute initiated a model program to assist urban high school graduates enter the building trades, which resulted in a multi-million dollar commitment from the state to replicate the program; co-authored reports on predatory lending and driver's license suspension that led to legislative changes in New Jersey; litigated affordable housing and fair lending cases; and spearheaded nationally recognized efforts to reform the state's corrections and parole systems.

Mr. Zimmerman also served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Programs in the Office of Fair Housing in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in Washington, D.C.; he was the third-ranking official in HUD's 600-person civil rights office and directed HUD's enforcement efforts under the Fair Housing Act and other civil rights laws. Earlier in his career, he worked at the U.S. Department of Justice as a senior trial attorney and trial attorney for the Civil Rights Division (Housing and Civil Enforcement Section), where he litigated affirmative civil rights cases nationwide that challenged discrimination in housing, lending and public accommodations.

Mr. Zimmerman has held various teaching and fellowship positions including Wasserstein Public Interest Fellow, Harvard Law School; Adjunct Professor, American University Washington College of Law; Instructor, United States Attorney General's Advocacy Institute, and Ferguson Human Rights and Development Fellow in India. He also taught at Sherut La'am in Israel and at the Upward Bound Program in New Haven, Connecticut.