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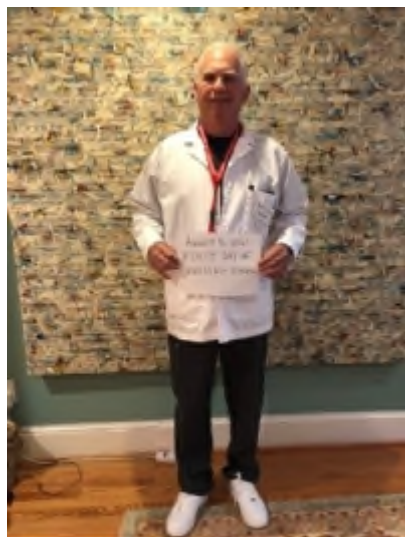


In 2021, we were proud to announce the launch of Zuckerman Spaeder’s alumni program, [AlumZS](#). In the spirit of maintaining connection, we are pleased to share our first AlumZS newsletter. We would welcome the opportunity to highlight your big news as well, and would be delighted to have you share your updates with us.

Best regards,

Rog

## A large, dark blue horizontal banner with the text "Alumni Spotlights" in a large, white, sans-serif font. The banner is set against a blurred background of what appears to be an office interior with windows.



### Alumni Attorney Spotlight - Steven Salky

Steven Salky retired from Zuckerman Spaeder in 2019 to pursue a career in nursing and is attending nursing school. Steve spent 35 years, all as a partner at the firm, where his practice focused on white collar criminal investigations, securities enforcement actions, complex civil litigation, and Congressional investigations. He was sought out by clients for his track record in obtaining winning results, both in and out of the courtroom.

Steve has long maintained an active pro bono practice, including after his departure from the firm. In 2021, he was honored with the Washington Lawyers’ Committee (WLC) Alfred McKenzie Award for his relentless efforts to secure pro bono counsel and train attorneys to represent federal inmates in compassionate release cases under the First Step Act at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Since December 2020, Steve has served as Senior Counsel for WLC, where he provides advice and counsel on criminal justice issues.

#### How did your work at Zuckerman Spaeder prepare you for your current role?

"I had a long, successful career at the firm, where I practiced civil litigation, white collar criminal defense, and did regulatory work. I enjoyed it a lot but was ready to move on to another activity. I decided to go to

nursing school as a second career and had to start by completing my prerequisites. My father was a doctor and I have three children in healthcare, and I thought I should work in the healthcare space before it was too late. My experience transitioning to nursing school has confirmed that it really is never too late to learn something new. I am having a great time. What I learned as a lawyer at Zuckerman Spaeder was to think independently, be creative, and not to just do things the way they had always been done. Those skills and that approach have prepared me for my nursing program, which is designed to prepare people to be leaders in the nursing community.

I also keep up to date on legal issues. After leaving Zuckerman Spaeder, I continued my work developing the Compassionate Release Clearinghouse and served as Senior Counsel to the Washington Lawyers' Committee. I continue to practice law and work as Of Counsel at my daughter's firm, Lyons & Salky Law, LLP."



### In Memoriam – Rick Massumi, 1954-2022

Rick Massumi was part of the small group of Zuckerman Spaeder lawyers in the early and mid-1980s. Rick was recently diagnosed with cancer, and the story of his life, including his end days, was published in [\*The Washington Post\*](#).

Rick was a smart guy with a gift for writing. He left our firm to go to the SEC and then, Sutherland Asbill & Brennan. He remained at Sutherland until his final illness in February 2022.

Above all, Rick was interesting.

Rick's father was the noted Iranian cardiologist Rashid Masumi, whom the Shah invited to return to Iran in the 1970s to modernize cardiology. Rick attended Vassar and earned his law degree from Georgetown. He arrived to DC in an International Harvester truck and lived in it for some time on the streets of Washington.

Rick was always a devotee of music and nightlife. For a time in the 1980s, he dated a waitress at Camelot and practically lived over there when he wasn't in other bars and music venues. At one point, he discovered an old Oklahoma cowboy singer named Brownie Ford. Rick recorded a wonderful album for him, helped him to win a prestigious National Endowment for the Arts National Heritage Fellowship, and arranged a solo concert for him at Carnegie Hall – which proved to be a tour de force for Brownie.

Over the past 30 years, Rick did endless pro bono work to promote nightlife in Adams Morgan and Mount Pleasant in DC, representing bars and music venues in tussles with neighborhood groups who wanted to limit their availability or eliminate them altogether. [City Paper](#) described those tussles and Rick's role in them.

As the recent *Post* article movingly explains, Rick was one of a kind and had a lifetime filled with warm friendships. (Contributed by Michael Smith.)

# Alumni News

- Former partner **Lisa Barclay** has been selected by the White House as a top deputy for the nation's coronavirus response team. Lisa serves as the White House Deputy Covid-19 Response

Coordinator. Though she left the firm in 2011 to serve as the Chief of Staff for the FDA, she remains a close friend to many here. Lisa is a veteran of multiple administrations and most recently served as the Deputy General Counsel for the HHS. [Read more.](#)

- Alumna **Rachel Cotton** recently shifted from her position at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy as General Counsel to the White House Counsel's Office.
- In June 2021, firm partner **Candace Jackson-Akiwumi** was confirmed to serve as a judge for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. Judge Jackson-Akiwumi has practiced law in the public and private sectors. Prior to joining the firm, she served as a staff attorney with the Federal Defender Program for the Northern District of Illinois. She is the first judge appointed to the Seventh Circuit who has a background as a federal public defender. [Read more.](#)

## What We've Been Up To



### New Partner – DOJ Veteran Dan Braun

In August 2021, we welcomed Dan Braun to our Washington, DC office. Dan brings extensive experience in criminal and regulatory enforcement, gained from more than 15 years as a prosecutor for the Criminal Division at the U.S. Department of Justice and as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York. Twice during this time, he received the U.S. Attorney General's Award for Distinguished Service. Since his arrival, Dan has been called upon by clients to assist with DOJ and SEC investigations and to provide guidance on a multitude of matters with international dimensions, including FCPA compliance. [Read more.](#) To connect with Dan, please [contact him here.](#)



### Returned Partner – Jason Knott

In May 2022, we welcomed Jason Knott back to our Washington, DC office. Jason will continue a broad-ranging civil practice focused on complex litigation, with a particular emphasis on matters involving employment, insurance, and health care. He will draw on his recent in-house experience to support executives and organizations in matters relating to Title VII, employment terminations, severance agreements, pay disputes, code of conduct breaches, and issues involving corporate culture. He also brings significant internal investigation experience, and will assist clients in responding to criminal, regulatory, and congressional inquiries, as well as internal workplace reviews. [Read more.](#) Please [contact Jason here.](#)

Zuckerman Spaeder Has Had an Active and Rewarding Year

We have been pleased to expand our recognitions in traditional rankings outlets, but we are perhaps most proud to recognize the lifetime achievement honors secured by members across our firm.

- **Gregg Bernstein** – *The Daily Record*, Icon Award
- **Jason Cowart** – *National Law Journal*, Plaintiffs' Lawyer Trailblazers
- **Andrew Goldfarb** – *National Law Journal*, Plaintiffs' Lawyer Trailblazers
- **D. Brian Hufford** – *National Law Journal*, Plaintiffs' Lawyer Trailblazers; National Alliance on Mental Illness Rona and Ken Purdy Award to End Discrimination; *Law360* Benefits MVP
- **Casey T.S. Jonas** – *DCA Live*, Emerging Women Leaders in Law
- **Carl Kravitz** – *National Law Journal*, Insurance Law Trailblazer
- **Sara Alpert Lawson** — *Daily Business Review*, On the Rise List
- **William Murphy** – *The Daily Record*, Lifetime Achievement Award
- **Caroline Reynolds** – *Law360*, Benefits MVP; Autism Law Summit, Attorney of the Year; *National Law Journal*, Litigation Trailblazer
- **Morris "Sandy" Weinberg Jr.** — *Daily Business Review*, Lifetime Achievement Award



### Sara Alpert Lawson Named as Partner

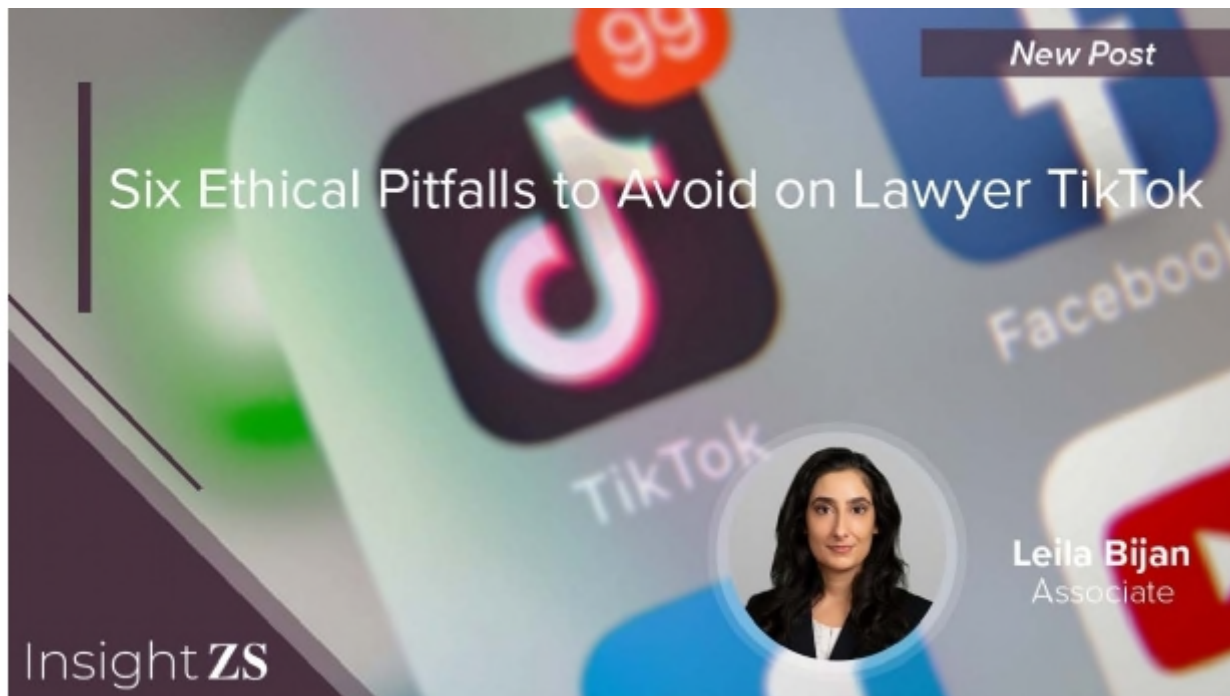
Effective January 1, **Sara Lawson** was named a partner at the firm. Sara has worked on matters out of the Tampa and Baltimore offices of the firm, where she represents businesses and individuals in high-stakes government investigations and commercial litigation. She has substantial experience litigating complex cases and defending organizations and executives in government investigations conducted by both federal and state agencies, including the DOJ and HHS. [Read more.](#)

Congratulate Sara by contacting her [here](#).

### Zuckerman Spaeder Launches InsightZS – A Legal Thought Leadership Resource

In the Spring of 2021, we launched InsightZS, which displays the breadth of the firm's practice and the heart of the firm. Blog posts cover a broad range of topics from litigation to investigations, health care to sports, legal ethics to compassionate release. **John Connolly**, **Andrew Goldfarb**, **Sara Lawson**, and **Nicholas DiCarlo** as primary editors for the blog, working with the broader Zuckerman Spaeder team as contributors. To receive updates on InsightZS, [subscribe here](#).

One of our most widely read and circulated posts came from associate **Leila Bijan**. [Read the post.](#)



# Case Highlights

## **Zuckerman Spaeder Launches National Conversation on Race-Norming Following Win in Professional Sports**

**The American Lawyer’s Litigation Daily: Litigators of the Week: The Zuckerman Spaeder Duo Who Challenged the Use of ‘Race-Norming’ in the NFL Concussion Settlement**

*"We are elated that the NFL has committed to discontinuing the practice of race-norming and encouraged by the broader impact of this outcome. In recent months, this result and related public discourse have further fueled a movement to reexamine the use of race-based norms throughout health care. We believe that it is vital to a healthy society that we continue to illuminate and dismantle these systemic inequities to ensure fair access to proper care, particularly for Black Americans." – [Cy Smith](#)*

**Other team members:** [Aitan Goelman](#), [Ezra Marcus](#), [David Reiser](#)

## **Zuckerman Spaeder Delivers \$10 Million Settlement with UnitedHealth for Underpayment of Mental Health Claims**

*"For years, United used a Tiered Reimbursement Policy that unfairly reduced benefits when patients obtained psychotherapy from out-of-network behavioral health providers. United has not only eliminated this policy, but as a result of our lawsuit and this settlement, it will now pay \$10 million to make up for these underpayments." – [Andrew Goldfarb](#)*

**Other team members:** [Jason Cowart](#), [D. Brian Hufford](#), [Nell Zora Peyser](#)

### **U.S. Department of Justice and Huawei Technologies Chief Financial Officer have reached a deferred prosecution agreement**

*"I'm very pleased that Sabrina Meng and the U.S. Department of Justice have reached a deferred prosecution agreement (DPA) and it has been approved by Judge Donnelly. Under the terms of this agreement, Ms. Meng will not be prosecuted further in the U.S. and the extradition proceedings in Canada will be terminated. She has not pleaded guilty and we fully expect the indictment will be dismissed with prejudice after fourteen months. Now, she will be free to return home to be with her family." – [William Taylor](#)*

### **Federal Court Rules that UnitedHealth Illegally Denied Autism Treatment for Zuckerman Spaeder Client**

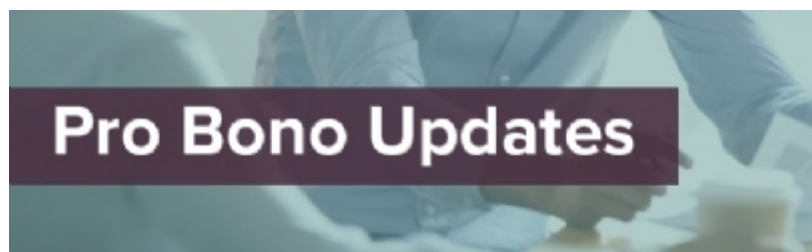
*"It is tremendously significant that the Court found this exclusion of coverage to be illegal, and that the nation's largest health insurer can be liable under federal law for enforcing it. Because this exclusion has been in many United-administered plans for years, there are likely to be thousands of other children and families who have been similarly affected. United failed to put the interests of its beneficiaries first when making potentially life-changing coverage decisions." – [Caroline Reynolds](#)*

**Other team members:** [D. Brian Hufford](#), [Jason Cowart](#)

### **Federal Judge Tosses False Claims Act Lawsuit Against Zuckerman Spaeder Client Health First**

*"Health First is committed to improving the wellness and health of those we serve. Zuckerman Spaeder helped us to end costly litigation and allowed Health First to remain focused on healing." – Nicholas Romanello, Senior Vice President and Chief Legal Officer, Health First*

**Team member:** [Marcos Hasbun](#)



Last year, partners **Steve Herman** and **Maggie O'Donnell** were named co-leaders of the Pro Bono Program following **Eleanor Smith's** retirement. To read more about the transition, click [here](#).

#### **Recent pro bono program highlights include:**

- March 2022 – Associate **Leila Bijan**, despite facing opposition from the government, led a successful effort to obtain compassionate release for a Florida prisoner. [Read more.](#)

### Upcoming Speaking Engagements

- Driving Diversity in Law & Leadership: Nurturing the Next Generation in Legal  
June 8, 2022 | Centerforce  
Sara Lawson
- 2022 Annual Conference: Breaking Down the Insurance Barrier to Equitable Mental Health Care  
June 10, 2022 | Mental Health America

- March 2022 – The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Maryland sued the Calvert County Sheriff's Office in Maryland and Sheriff Mike Evans, claiming that the office is violating the law by requiring fees as part of a records request. Representing the ACLU, we filed a complaint arguing that under the Maryland Public Interest Act, our client's request is in the public interest and therefore any responsive records should be produced without charging a fee. The Zuckerman Spaeder team includes partner **Adam Abelson** and associate **Justin Lewis**. [Read more](#).
- January 2022 – The ACLU, along with the ACLU of Florida, Southern Poverty Law Center, and Zuckerman Spaeder, filed a federal lawsuit on behalf of Neville Brooks, a legal permanent resident from Jamaica who was detained by the Marion County Sheriff's Office on false suspicion of being in the U.S. unlawfully. The Zuckerman Spaeder team includes partner **Jack Fernandez** and associate **Alyssa Howard**. [Read more](#).
- November 2021 – We partnered with the ACLU of Missouri to bring a lawsuit against Jack Henry & Associates, Inc. on behalf of a transgender woman who was denied insurance coverage for prescribed facial feminization surgery, a type of gender transition treatment. The Zuckerman Spaeder team includes partner **Caroline Reynolds** and associate **Leila Bijan**. [Read more](#).

#### Awards

- [National Legal Aid and Defender Association, 2022 Beacon of Justice Award](#)
- [The National Law Journal, 2021 Pro Bono Hot List](#)
- [Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland - Judge Robert M. Bell Award, Alicia Shelton](#)
- [D.C. Bar - William J. Brennan Jr. Award, David A. Reiser](#)
- [New York State Bar Association President - Pro Bono Service Young Lawyer Award, Devon Galloway](#)

Jason Cowart

- [Accelerated Approval Pathway: Addressing Recent Challenges](#)  
June 14, 2022 | Food and Drug Law Institute  
William Schultz

## Resources

- Did you know that in-house alumni of Zuckerman Spaeder have the opportunity to secure a six-month individual membership to the Association of Corporate Counsel? This resource provides access to research, online education, thought leadership, and extensive networking communities. [Register](#) and [learn more](#) about this program.
- Are you looking for ways to fulfill your mandated CLE requirements? Throughout the year, we host webinars on various topics. If you are interested in a specific topic, we would love to hear from you; please contact [Kalie Walrath](#).
- Stay Connected – For timely updates, [join our private alumni group on LinkedIn](#) and make sure we have your [updated contact details](#).

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