

Alphonso B. David



Alphonso B. David is an attorney, law professor and policy advisor with significant litigation and management experience in the public, private, and not-for-profit sectors.

Mr. David was recently appointed by Governor Andrew Cuomo to serve as Counsel to the Governor. In this role, he functions as the Governor's chief counsel and principal legal advisor, and oversees all significant legal and policy deliberations affecting New York State including evaluating proposed legislation, implementing laws and policies, and formulating the State's posture in both affirmative and defensive litigation.

Prior to his appointment as the Governor's Chief Counsel, Mr. David served for four years in the Governor's cabinet as the Deputy Secretary and Counsel for Civil Rights, the first position of its kind in New York State. In this capacity, he was responsible for a full range of legal, policy, legislative and operational matters affecting civil rights and labor throughout the State. Mr. David also previously served as Special Deputy Attorney General for Civil Rights for the Office of the New York State Attorney General, where he managed up to a dozen Assistant Attorneys General on a variety of investigations and affirmative litigation, including employment and housing discrimination, fair lending, reproductive rights and anti-bias claims. Further, he previously served as Deputy Commissioner and Special Counselor at the New York State Division of Human Rights, a litigation associate at the law firm Blank Rome LLP, and a staff attorney at the Lambda Legal Defense and Educational Fund. At Lambda Legal, Mr. David litigated precedent-setting civil rights cases across the nation affecting lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals and those living with HIV. He handled both affirmative and defensive matters relating to marriage, parenting rights, discrimination in schools and access to health care. For the past decade, he has also served as an Adjunct Professor of Law, first at Fordham University Law School and currently at Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, where he teaches "Constitutional Law: Sexuality and the Law." Mr. David is a graduate of the University of Maryland and Temple University School of Law and served as a judicial clerk to the Honorable Clifford Scott Green in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.