



Moving Forward: Hope for the Future

USTP Has Hope for the Future Despite the Continuing Challenges of COVID-19

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A Conversation with “John Smith”

By [REDACTED] and August Barham

In December 2020, “John Smith” was appointed as the U.S. Trustee for [REDACTED]. Since that time, “John” has integrated into his new role and is enjoying working with his colleagues in this new capacity. However, teleworking due to COVID-19 has made it difficult to fully introduce himself to the Program. As a life-long [REDACTED] with a new pet and interesting hobbies, this brief interview with “John” gives a glimpse into the life of our newest UST.

What excites you the most about your new position as a U.S. Trustee?

The people, mainly. I enjoy working with my colleagues in the region, and I enjoy working with the leadership in the Program. They’re a great group of people and having this opportunity to work with everybody from this vantage point is exciting to me.

What led you to your new position?

I started a career clerking for a bankruptcy judge in [REDACTED], then I went to work for a law firm in [REDACTED] doing bankruptcy and commercial litigation. I then joined the U.S. Trustee Program’s [REDACTED] office in [REDACTED]. In [REDACTED], I transferred over to the [REDACTED] where I’ve been ever since. Here, I’ve been acting Assistant U.S. Trustee for the [REDACTED], [REDACTED], and [REDACTED] offices and have been involved with numerous working groups within the Program. All that brings us to today with me as the U.S. Trustee.



The Family

Before you pursued a career in law, where did you attend college?

I went to [REDACTED] for undergrad and to the [REDACTED] for law school. I really loved both places. I enjoyed living in [REDACTED], it was a great place to go to law school. I’m still fond of **Duke** and am a big [REDACTED] basketball fan to this day.

Are there any exciting projects coming up that you can tell us about?

The face of Region [REDACTED] has been changing recently with the passing of Diane [REDACTED], the [REDACTED] AUST, and the retirements of [REDACTED], the AUST of [REDACTED], and [REDACTED], the AUST of [REDACTED]. All the AUST positions in Region [REDACTED] are going to be brand new this year, so filling those positions has been an exciting project, and I’m looking forward to working with the new people in these roles.

When did you become interested in law, and bankruptcy law specifically?

While I was in college. I was a political science and history major, and I had some family members who were lawyers, so I always considered it as an option. I became even more drawn to law while I was studying for the LSAT. One of the sections was logic games, which I really enjoyed. I thought if that was the kind of thinking that lawyers have to do, then that makes sense for me. I was drawn toward bankruptcy law because I have always had a head for numbers, so bankruptcy stuck out early on as an area where I could combine two things I liked to do.

Speaking of things you like to do, do you have any hobbies outside of the office?

I like to run. I used to be a marathon runner; I ran about 10 marathons from about 2000 to 2010. I don't run distances that long anymore, but I still like to keep up the running.

Is there anything else that has been occupying your time during COVID-19?

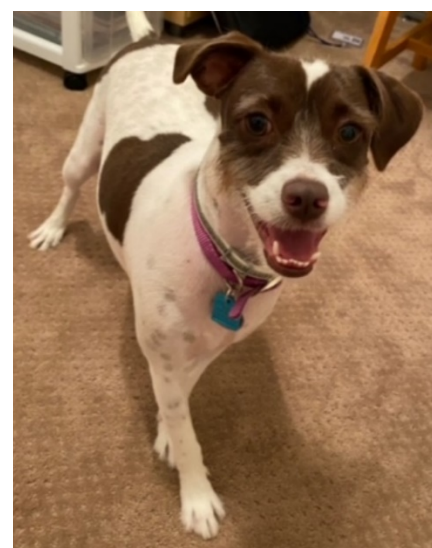
My family adopted what we're calling our "COVID-dog." That has been the big thing because we'd never had a dog before, so it's been a big change. We quickly became a dog family, and my daughters love her so much that they call from college just to check-in on the dog.

That's great! Can you tell us about your dog?

Her name is Peri, and she seems to most resemble a Parson Russel Terrier. We got her last April and we think she was about 18 months when we got her. We adopted her from a rescue organization in [REDACTED]. She's been a great addition to our family!

What's your family like?

They're a big part of my life. My wife's name is [REDACTED], and we have three children, [REDACTED], [REDACTED], and [REDACTED]. The two girls are in college, [REDACTED] is attending [REDACTED] University and [REDACTED] is at [REDACTED] University in [REDACTED].



Peri,
the [REDACTED] Family Dog

How long have you and your family lived in [REDACTED], and what makes [REDACTED] different from the other places you've lived?

I'm a [REDACTED] native as I grew up in [REDACTED]. After college, I came back to [REDACTED] for law school before moving to [REDACTED] for about eight years. In 2003, we moved to [REDACTED] and have been in [REDACTED] ever since. One unique thing about [REDACTED] is how big it is. The [REDACTED] district covers [REDACTED] all the way to [REDACTED], which is about 550 miles away. I used to cover the [REDACTED] docket for our office, and I would have to fly out to a place that was still in the district, which is uncommon. A flight was the only way to go!

What about any funny stories about working in [REDACTED]?

I am a long-time, perhaps long-suffering, [REDACTED] fan, a team that has never won the World Series. When the [REDACTED] were one game from winning the [REDACTED] World Series, I missed most of

game six because I was in court representing the U.S. Trustee in an evidentiary hearing that lasted until after 9 p.m. Fortunately for me, the game was running long, and I was able to make it home for the last few innings, during which the [REDACTED] twice came one strike away from winning the World Series. Unfortunately, I had to watch the [REDACTED] tie the game in both instances and later win the game and the World Series. On the bright side, we did prevail at the hearing.

Finally, do you have any tips or tricks on how to get through these last few months of working from home?

My advice is to just keep plugging along. Realistically, that's all we can do. I think we're getting close to the end, so being able to see the finish line somewhere in the near future is something to look forward to. It's important to keep our spirits up, and hopefully we'll be back together before too long.

A Path to the Program

[REDACTED]: The Goal to Give Back

By [REDACTED]

Ambassador Program

The DOJ Ambassador Program is a resource for law students and graduates interested in furthering their career by working at DOJ. The Ambassador Program is directed by the Office of Attorney Recruitment and Management (OARM), and the ambassadors are an integral aspect to DOJ's legal recruitment efforts. The program consists of volunteer attorneys from throughout the Department who act as a resource. Ambassadors work as mentors for students and help them prepare for interviews and find opportunities throughout the DOJ. OARM trains ambassadors to help students, including training on the Department's four main legal hiring programs. The program has expanded to include ambassadors at schools across the country, creating opportunities for many law and graduate students to learn about careers at DOJ.

██████████ was able to secure his position in the USTP ██████████ office in Region ██████████ through his own initiative, despite not having pursued a more traditional route to the position. ██████████ is the first in his family to graduate from a four-year university and to obtain a post-graduate degree. After seeing how his hard work and dedication paid off, ██████████ hopes to inspire others to enter the bankruptcy field and join the USTP from non-traditional law backgrounds.

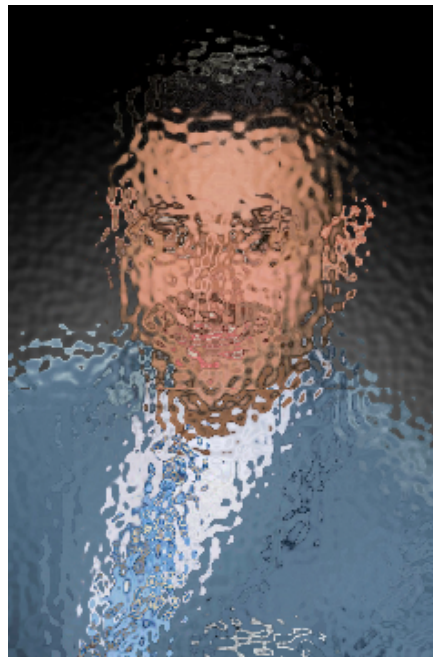
After receiving his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of ██████████ in 2014, he knew he wanted to attend law school. Instead of enrolling right away, he took time to work within both the legal and financial services industries. ██████████ began nurturing his passion for bankruptcy law by working as a legal assistant in a firm that focused on chapter 7 filings. In 2017, after gaining the necessary experience, ██████████ took the next step and enrolled at the ██████████ University ██████████ Law School at the ██████████ campus. He graduated with honors and received his JD in January 2020.

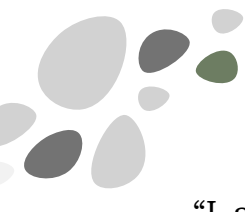
In his last year of law school, ██████████ explored a career at USTP through the DOJ Honors Program and Ambassador Program even though his school did not have an official ambassador. He was admitted to the ██████████ Bar in April 2020.

After being selected for an interview, ██████████ used the DOJ Ambassador website as a resource. He emailed various USTP Trial Attorneys across the country that were listed on the DOJ Ambassador website and asked if they could share what their “typical day” looked like to better understand the position. He was pleasantly surprised that every USTP attorney he emailed responded, providing him with the insight that he sought.


Having worked several years as a legal assistant and paralegal in a small law firm allowed him to closely participate in the clients’ chapter 7 bankruptcy process. “Being exposed to the bankruptcy process gave me the unique perspective of seeing how the bankruptcy system directly affected people that I was helping in my community,” ██████████ said. “It made me realize that the bankruptcy system is a necessary tool in our democracy to allow good people who have fallen into financial hardships to have a fresh start.”

Since being appointed, ██████████ has become an advocate for the Ambassador Program and hopes to encourage law students to use the DOJ Honors Program and Ambassador Program to seek advice.





“I am very grateful for the resources that were provided by the Ambassador Program, and I hope to one day be able to serve as an Ambassador myself to give back to the program in the many ways it has helped me,” he said.




IT Bits and Bytes Phishing

Not all email links are as they appear... they may be part of a phishing scam.

Read below for tips from OIT on how to detect phishing emails and suspicious links:

- The email is from a .com account, not a .doj.gov account, which shows it originated from outside the organization. This is not a trusted source.
- By hovering over an embedded hyperlink, you can preview the web address to which the link will send you. In this case, you can see that the link won't take you to the time-keeping site. Don't click it.
- If you receive a suspicious email, it is recommended to avoid opening it if you can. Instead, forward it to DOJMAIL-SPAM@usdoj.gov by following the steps below:
 1. Highlight the unread email in your inbox – If you can avoid it, do not click twice. This would open the email.
 2. Press and hold the CTRL key followed by the letter C key.
 3. Open a new email and place the insertion point in the body of the email.
 4. Press and hold the CTRL key followed by the letter V key.

If you've already opened a suspicious email, don't panic! Avoid clicking any links and forward the email to DOJMAIL-SPAM@usdoj.gov.



IT Bits and Bytes

Litigation Support

USTP's Litigation Support team offers tools, techniques, and technologies to assist USTP management, trial attorneys, and other related professionals in their work.

Read below to learn more about the services offerings of this important team.

Digital Data Collection and Processing

- Identify, preserve, and collect electronic evidence and electronically stored information (ESI).
- Safeguard electronic evidence for court presentation.
- Conduct forensic reviews of digital data.

Request Lit Support Services

Litigation.support@USDOJ.gov

Or

Litigation Support SharePoint Site

Document Review

- Ingest multiple file types into a user-friendly document review platform.
- Automate the review, redaction, and production of ESI and digital evidence.

Case and Exhibit Preparation

- Craft demonstrative and summary exhibits for depositions, hearings, and trials.
- Provide USTP Litigation Support team members as witnesses to testify on technical data collection and analysis (facts and summary).

Data Analytics

- Perform analyses on large volume data sets.
- Apply advanced analytical techniques to identify outliers, patterns, and trends.
- Create custom reports and visualizations to assist trial teams.

Technical Assistance and Training

- Provide eDiscovery training, technical support, and complex case assistance in all USTP enforcement case types and focus areas.
- Deliver specialized expertise including cryptocurrency reviews, social media, and online investigations.

Tools and Technologies

ScanWriter

Financial Review Software

LexisNexis CaseMap Suite

Trial Preparation Software

Trial Director

Trial Presentation Software

QuickBooks

Accounting and Analytic Software

Relativity

eDiscovery Software

Get to Know an Office

By August Barham

██████████, ██████████ Office

Trial Attorney ██████████'s relationship with Wichita, Kansas, is a dynamic one – his team helps him grow as an ██████████ every day, and the city in which he was raised continues to surprise him. “We have some truly talented people in our office who have made me a better ██████████ and government servant, and I am proud of that,” ██████████ said.

The dynamic nature of Chris's work translates to his relationship with the city. Despite being born and Raised in ██████████, ██████████ said he never fully appreciated the area. After moving away for a while, ██████████ eventually returned and settled in his hometown. By the time he returned, the city had rapidly evolved, and his appreciation for the area began to grow. “To my pleasant surprise as someone who didn't like it here growing up, in the time I was away, ██████████ focused on rejuvenating its downtown core and making this a more livable city.” This rejuvenation included an eight-year downtown river beautification project, completed in 2007. Chris recommends walking around the area at night when the statue is lit.

Chris also credits his evolving appreciation for ██████████ to his family's recent exploration of the area, spurred by quarantine. “We have been scoping out places we have never heard of and then going out and visiting them, which has given us more appreciation for our own state.” Chris discovered ██████████, an expansive sunflower patch just outside of ██████████ which ██████████ says offers a great family photo opportunity. ██████████'s family also discovered ██████████ Castle in the ██████████ region of central ██████████. According to ██████████, the Castle was “a WPA



The ██████████
photo From ██████████ Living



██████████ and his family
At ██████████



██████████ and his family
at ██████████ Castle

project from the 1930s marking the spot where the conquistador Coronado allegedly abandoned his search for The mythical Seven Cities of Gold,” a 16th century fable among Spanish expeditioners in North American, speculating the existence of cities filled with riches, where doorways were “studded with emerald and turquoise.”

While COVID-19 has given ██████████ the opportunity to explore ██████████’s natural attractions, he hopes to soon be able to enjoy his favorite cultural activities again – to catch a standup show at the ██████████ Orpheum or to enjoy some cake from the Kitchen, an American Bistro co-owned by well-known chef Natasha Gandhi-Rue. “I don’t even really like strawberries, but her strawberry cake is one of the most delicious things I’ve ever had.”

██████████ also hopes that once it is safe to do so, more USTP team members will come discover what has taken him years to fully realize – ██████████ is a pretty cool place. “Come check us out!”

██████████, ██████████ Office

For AUST ██████████, working in ██████████, ██████████, means working with a close-knit team and working minutes from a bounty of outdoor adventures. In relation to the size of the area, the ██████████ office is a small one. But this mighty office oversees and reviews a slew of cases – from chapter 12 to 727 discharge issues – with only three attorneys, one auditor, and one paralegal. A small team means opportunities for close collaboration and flourishing business relationships. “We all get along great, which is a real benefit of being such a small office,” ██████████ said. Even as a recent hire, ██████████ has been readily welcomed into the team among others who have worked in the office for 14 to 25 years.

██████████ enjoys working in ██████████ thanks to his uplifting team but also appreciates ██████████ for what it offers outside the office. The ██████████ Mountains and neighboring ██████████ National Forest offer ██████████ and his family a source of adventure just outside their door. The nearby mountains also provide ██████████ with a sense of nostalgia. “We also visit the Mountains a lot because they remind me of the ██████████ area, where I grew up.” North of the ██████████ Mountains lies another of ██████████’s favorite spots, ██████████. Situated along the ██████████ Lake shore, this resort town offers every outdoor activity imaginable, from rock climbing to skiing.

█████ says there are many similar outdoor resorts around █████, such as the popular █████ Resort, but there are also many areas that offer more rugged natural majesty, such as █████ Lake. “In terms of outdoor activities, Boise allows for anything you might want to do – except coastal activities,” █████ laughed. The trove of outdoor activities █████ hosts are particularly valuable amid the pandemic.

Though the snowy winter has kept some people cooped up at home, the pleasant █████ spring is on its way. “Spring is usually when people start to get outdoors more and are able to go out, explore, and do some activities that they have not been able to do for a while,” █████ said. Spring is also a time of hope, and █████ hopes he will soon be able to enjoy █████ cultural activities with as much ease as he can outdoor activities, such as casually catching an old film at the famous Egyptian theater. Or, on a whim, taking his family to see falcons, eagles, and other birds at The Peregrine Fund's World Center for Birds of Prey.

█████ is also looking forward to his future at the █████ field office. He specifically notes the office's upcoming relocation to the federal courthouse. “I am excited for that move because I feel like I am going back home. I clerked just up a couple floors to where we are moving,” █████ said. Lastly, █████ is hopeful of a future in which he can work face to face, as opposed to screen to screen, with his new colleagues. “I came on in the middle of the pandemic, so I am looking forward to getting into the office and meeting everyone at once, face to face.”



█████
Photo From Oars.com



█████
Photo From Travel Awaits



The Egyptian theater
Photo From The Egyptian Theater

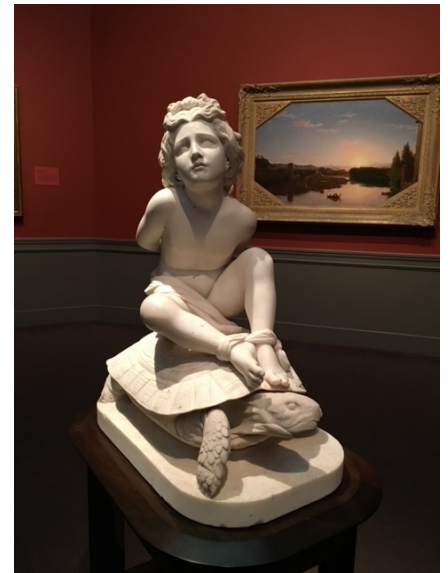
██████████, ██████ Office

To Trial Attorney ██████████, ██████████, ██████████, is a hidden treasure, bursting with culture, entertainment, and delicious food. While geographically ██████████ is far from hidden, centrally located between ██████████ and ██████████, ██████████ feels many people remain unaware of the area's vibrant culture. But this 'secret' treasure is slowly being discovered. "People are changing their view of ██████████. They are surprised to see what it has to offer once they get to know it better," ██████████ said.

Part of what it has to offer is a vibrant art scene. "I am really, really happy with all of the cultural aspects of the area," ██████████ said. ██████████ notes her appreciation for the historic ██████████ Theatre which offers a vibrant live theater scene. She also notes the "world class" ██████████ Art Museum which offers a plethora of artifacts dating back as far as 3,000 BC. In ██████████, art flourishes outside of the museum walls as well. "We have also tried to attract the arts by inviting mural artists to the city. Leaving the city sprinkled with these fantastic public pieces of art."

While strolling through this urban art gallery, people could stop for a bite to eat at one of the many ██████████ restaurants. Before COVID-19, the ██████████ restaurant scene was blossoming. "██████████ was enjoying becoming a foodie city for sure. You can get the whole gamut here, ranging from high-end restaurants to more dive, mom-and-pop places," ██████████ said. One such 'rising star' restaurant was ██████████ ██████████ on Main Street, one of ██████████'s favorites. This foodie haven has been written up in The Boston Globe.

Now that spring has arrived, ██████████ residents are looking forward to the arrival of a new high-profile sports team. "██████████ is the new home for the ██████████ team, the



██████████ Art Museum Cupid Sculpture



POW! WOW! ██████████ Mural on The Palladium



The Berkshire Highlands
Photo From The Financial Times

██████████. They are building a state-of-the-art ██████████ stadium.” After nearly 50 years in ██████████, the team formally known as the ██████████ has been sold to ██████████ and is scheduled to begin playing in the new ██████████ Park on May 11.

In addition to ██████████, the warmer weather of spring fosters a sense of hope in both ██████████ residents and the USTP ██████████ team. The team is looking forward to the positive changes expected in the coming year.

Special Hobbies Around the Program

██████████: Crochet

By Rebecca Crosby

██████████ has been crocheting since she was 14 years old. She first learned to crochet when she was a child, taught by the grandmother of a child that she babysat. The grandmother sat with her while the baby was asleep and taught her a variety of stitches.



Baby Blanket

Since then, ██████████ has loved to crochet. She says it is a relaxing and creative outlet that allows her an escape from her busy life. She was drawn to crochet originally because she likes handmade things and loves to be able to give away her projects as gifts. Her favorite items to crochet are baby blankets as she likes giving them as gifts to expecting mothers.

██████████ has found that crocheting has been a great outlet during quarantine as she now spends more time inside. She is most proud of a queen size afghan that she crocheted for the daughter of a friend as a birthday present.

“I’m proud that she really likes it,” ██████████ said.

██████████ also enjoys other fabric crafts like sewing, but crocheting is her favorite. She especially loves making pastel blankets for children and babies as she appreciates the joy expressed by the recipients of her work.



Table Runner



Afghan

Word

Jumble

- 1 gohwrt _____
- 2 ndiqluiatoi _____
- 3 uinfroti _____
- 4 rtpchae lnveee _____
- 5 urueft _____
- 6 etestru _____
- 7 ifnroelgw _____
- 8 urcryptbank cotgadwh _____
- 9 pnrsig _____
- 10 cthawii _____
- 11 itbbar _____
- 12 isoeb _____
- 13 innortapisi _____
- 14 roewtcrs _____
- 15 ptmiosmi _____
- 16 ldfie fecoif _____
- 17 raatsniiop _____
synonym
- 18 hstglopit _____
- 19 pfeslosnhue _____
- 20 esipcstancldhomm _____
- 21 orbntaolialco _____
- 22 hiseobb _____
- 23 hacgen _____
- 24 ipalnfift _____

- Hint: opposite of decay
- Hint: final distribution
- Hint: plan becomes product
- Hint: reorganization
- Hint: McFly must go back
- Hint: bankruptcy protector
- Hint: Magnoliophyta plants
- Hint: program nickname
- Hint: a season, verb, and noun
- Hint: Home to The Keeper of the Plains statue
- Hint: Chinese Zodiac 1987, 1999, 2011...
- Hint: Jason's office
- Hint: when ____ strikes
- Hint: new home of the Red Sox Tipple-A team
- Hint: ____ : cynicism :: full : empty
- Hint: 90 locations nationwide
- Hint: Bryan Buenaventura's is to give back,
- Hint: center of attention
- Hint: seeing the light at the end of the tunnel
- Hint: something to write home about
- Hint: enabled by Teams
- Hint: Fills time after 5 PM
- Hint: your clothes, your mind, of events
- Hint: accuser courting justice

The solution to the word jumble will be published in the upcoming weeks.

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Questions or Comments?
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www.justice.gov/ust

USTP Bulletin is the employee newsletter of the U.S. Trustee Program. Editor: [REDACTED]

August Barham and [REDACTED] also contributed to this edition of the USTP Bulletin.

The views expressed in the newsletter articles are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official positions or policies of the Executive Office for U.S. Trustees, the U.S. Trustee Program, or the Department of Justice. Articles are subject to editing for style and space requirements. External links are provided for informational purposes only, and their inclusion does not constitute endorsement by the U.S. Trustee Program or the Department of Justice.



OUR MISSION

The mission of the U.S. Trustee Program is to promote the integrity and efficiency of the bankruptcy system for the benefit of all stakeholders—debtors, creditors, and the public.