

MATTHEW S. WATSON

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

J.D. Candidate at Northeastern University School of Law with hands-on experience in estate planning, family law, immigration law, and criminal defense. Demonstrated expertise in legal research, drafting, client communication, and policy analysis. Military veteran with proven leadership, analytical, and problem-solving skills. Dedicated to delivering practical, strategic solutions in complex legal environments.

EDUCATION

- **Northeastern University School of Law**
J.D. Candidate, *May 2027*
 - **Johns Hopkins University**
M.A. in Government/Political Communication, *May 2026*
 - **Defense Language Institute**
A.A. in Middle Eastern and Arabic Studies, *November 2016*
 - **Northern Illinois University**
B.A. in Political Science (Public Law Emphasis), *July 2013*
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LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Legal Intern, Office of the Federal Public Defender — District of Connecticut *January 2025 – Present*

- Conducted legal research on criminal and constitutional law to support case strategy.
- Assisted in drafting motions and analyzing evidence for federal criminal cases.
- Observed federal trial court proceedings, including non-violent and violent criminal trials.
- Developed sociological research reports to provide context for client advocacy.

Law Clerk, Broderick Law Firm LLC — Middlebury, CT *November 2023 – January 2024*

- Drafted wills, trusts, and estate planning documents, ensuring compliance with Connecticut regulations.
- Conducted in-depth legal research on real estate law to support case strategies.
- Prepared client communications and managed database updates to streamline case progress.

Legal Intern, Tari Law LLC — Burlington, MA *July 2023 – November 2023*

- Researched complex immigration law cases, aiding in the preparation of briefs and motions.
- Collaborated with the managing attorney to develop case strategies, resulting in favorable outcomes for clients.
- Filed documents with the clerk of court and maintained client confidentiality.

Legal Intern, The Orozco Firm PLLC — Fayetteville, NC *May 2023 – July 2023*

- Drafted and reviewed family law pleadings, ensuring compliance with court requirements.
- Participated in client consultations, fostering trust and gathering pertinent information for case preparation.
- Supported attorneys during hearings and mediations by managing documentation and logistics.

Congressional Intern, Office of Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro — New Haven, CT

November 2023 – January 2024

- Worked with senior staff on legislative projects and policy initiatives.
 - Engaged directly with constituents to address inquiries and resolve concerns.
 - Attended meetings on policy issues, providing insight and contributing to discussions on key legislative priorities.
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MILITARY EXPERIENCE

Staff Sergeant, U.S. Army — Arabic Cryptologic Linguist & SOF Civil Affairs

March 2015 – August 2023

- Directed a multi-functional intelligence team, integrating data to support mission-critical decisions.
 - Conducted Arabic translation and analysis for Operation Inherent Resolve, enhancing strategic outcomes.
 - Led operational planning for a 500-member civil affairs brigade, fostering teamwork and readiness.
 - Specialized in regional engagement strategies in Latin America, contributing to regional stability and partnership building.
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CERTIFICATIONS & SKILLS

- Connecticut Notary Public
 - LexisNexis Practice-Ready Certification, Westlaw Advanced Certification
 - Google AI Essentials
 - Top-Secret Clearance SCI
 - Legal Research and Writing
 - Case Preparation and Client Relations
 - Time Management and Critical Thinking
 - Database and File Management
 - Team Leadership and Collaboration
 - Arabic (Intermediate) and Spanish (Advanced)
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VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Epilepsy Advocacy Champion, Epilepsy Foundation

- Engaged with members of Congress to advance legislative initiatives supporting individuals with epilepsy.
- Developed and executed advocacy campaigns to raise public awareness.

Medical Assistant, The Care Clinic

- Supported physicians with patient care and documentation, ensuring efficient clinic operations.
- Conducted vital checks and assisted with minor procedures, enhancing patient outcomes.