

# Vanessa Sousa

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## CURRENT ADDRESS

4701 Upton Avenue, Northwest  
Washington, DC 20016

## PERMANENT ADDRESS

1 Stacey Court  
South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080

## EDUCATION:

**American University – Washington, DC**

**Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies: Communications, Legal Institutions, Economics, Government (C.L.E.G.)**

**Minor in the Spanish Language**

**GPA: 4.0/4.0**

**Expected Graduation: May 2023**

## RELEVANT COURSES:

- Congress & Legislative Behavior
- Pol. Power & American Public Policy
- Intro to Political Research
- Politics in the US
- Comparative Politics
- Macroeconomics
- Microeconomics
- Introduction to Law
- Critical Issues in Justice
- Developmental Leadership I & II
- College Writing, Intensive
- (Up to) Spanish Lang. Intermediate II
- Politics in the Developing World

## TECHNICAL/NON-TECHNICAL SKILLS:

- Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint
- Bilingual in English and Portuguese
- Proficiency in STATA Software
- Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Skype
- Canva, iMovie

## EXPERIENCE:

**D.C. Witness, Washington, DC**

**Communications Intern**

**January 2021 - present**

- Track homicide cases and attend court hearings/trials on such homicides
- Write briefs and long-form stories on homicide reduction policies
- Interview court employees and participate in a podcast on DC homicide cases

**American University School of Public Affairs Leadership Program**

**Eco. Inequality Teaching Assistant**

**June 2020 - present**

- Guide first-year members in their research by teaching them about literature reviews, policy memos, matrixes, and grant proposals
- Advise such members in developing, organizing, and executing their chosen social justice project

**Prof. Elizabeth Suhay, AU School of Public Affairs, Dept. of Government**

**Research Assistant**

**January 2020 - January 2021**

- Developed a coding scheme and utilized this key to code a nationally-distributed survey
- Conducted statistical analysis for Professor Suhay's research about Americans' perception of inequality

**The American Red Cross HQ: Office of Pres. & CEO, Corporate Fundraising Dept., DC**

**Intern**

**May 2020 - August 2020**

- Wrote summaries concerning Red Cross organization-wide updates bi-weekly for the Office of the President & CEO
- Drafted presidential briefings for the President & CEO's events and assisted with the office's transition to an online workplace
- Constructed internal/external surveys for employees/partners and generated post-survey reports/Excel sheets for distribution
- Collaborated on the future operations of the Corporate Fundraising Department due to COVID-19 and organized PowerPoints/Excel sheets about such changes presented at the department's annual retreat
- Managed and developed American Red Cross microsites and conversed with corporate partners about in-kind donations
- Conducted research on virtual Employee Engagement and 401k & 457b Policy Statements for Governance Department

## PROJECTS/RESEARCH:

**Educational Marginalization Awareness and Fundraising Campaign**

**Developer/Organizer**

**August 2020 - Present**

- Collected extensive research on the educational inequities and marginalization of certain students in the US education system
- Coordinating a joint social media awareness campaign and social-distanced charity run with a partnering non-profit

**Puerto Rico Alternative Break Program: Education & Inequality**

**Student Volunteer**

**January 2020 - March 2020**

- Examined the economic, political, and social inequalities in Puerto Rico's public education system.
- Supported the Instituto Nueva Escuela, P.E.C.E.S. Humacao and UPR by cleaning the grounds, aiding in any designated tasks, and collaborated on a video highlighting the good each educational institution provides its students as well as the inequities they face
- Spoke with students from the University of Puerto Rico; discussed with an economist about the economic inequality situation in PR

**Racial Injustice Issue Group 2019-2020: Reducing Recidivism**

**Team Member**

**September 2019 - April 2020**

- Conducted extensive research on a narrowed subject within the larger issue of racial injustice: recidivism.
- Organized a social media campaign and fundraiser to raise funds for a partnering DC non-profit organization, Free Minds Book Club

## LEADERSHIP/ORGANIZATIONS:

**American University Center for Advocacy & Student Equity**

**Accessibility & Accommodations Advocate**

**August 2020 - Present**

- Planned and led meetings to educate students on university policies/adjudication procedures and prepare statements/appeals before conferences, hearings, or panels
- Advocate for improvements to students' rights and accommodations within specific university codes and guidelines

**American University Student Government**

**Vice President's Chief of Staff, Senator of Class of 2023**

**October 2019 - Present**

- Manage and support A.U. School & Class Councils as their primary point of contact within the V.P. cabinet
- Tackle problems that come to the V.P. cabinet, fill in for the V.P., and assist cabinet directors with their programming events
- Advocated for Class of 2023, such as the need for increased inclusivity and mental/emotional health programs
- Attended weekly senate meetings, proposed, drafted, and wrote bills and resolutions to present to AUSG Senate

## ACTIVITIES/AWARDS:

- American University First Generation Student Union Member August 2020 - Present
- American University School of Public Affairs Leadership Program Accepted Member August 2019 - Present
- American University Dean's Scholarship Recipient August 2019 - Present