

SARA C. BRONIN

Doctor of Laws

It is through your passion for preservation—and its power to connect us with our past and to give us a sense of continuity, identity, and belonging—that you have become one of our country’s leading voices and preeminent authorities on historic preservation law. You are a proud Mexican-American architect, attorney, policymaker, and professor, and your interdisciplinary research focuses on how law and policy can foster more equitable, sustainable, well-designed, and connected places.

Your history of transformative impact in and exemplary knowledge of the specialty areas of housing, sustainability, historic preservation law, land-use law, renewable energy law, and transportation law is clear. Nominated by President Joe Biden, you were confirmed by unanimous consent of the U.S. Senate in December 2022 to serve as the 12th chair of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, where you lead the preservation, enhancement, and sustainable use of our nation’s diverse historic resources and advise the president and Congress on national historic preservation policy.

Prior to your confirmation, you spent your career as a professor and public servant. As an academic, you are a professor of the Cornell University College of Architecture, Art, and Planning and director of the Legal Constructs Lab, an associate member of the faculty of Cornell Law School, and a faculty fellow of the Cornell Atkinson Center for Sustainability.

As a public servant and preservationist, you have said historic, tribal, and cultural resources allow us to better understand our past so we may shape a brighter future for our communities. For this reason, you believe deeply in the importance of engaging in debates about energy policy, climate resilience, housing development, transportation infrastructure, tribal sovereignty, and the tax system to help inform decision-making.

One doesn’t need to travel far to bear witness to your influence. Your work serving on the City of Hartford Planning and Zoning Commission led to the capital city’s nationally recognized, award-winning efforts to draft and adopt a climate action plan, city plan, and zoning-code overhaul. You built consensus within the city for how environmental sustainability goes hand in hand with responsible placemaking, allowing Hartford to become a city for others across the country to emulate.

Your influence extends beyond the classroom, boardroom, and courtroom. You’ve published five books and treatises and dozens of articles, book chapters, and shorter works on your areas of expertise. You founded the National Zoning Atlas, designed to translate and standardize information about how zoning regulates housing in approximately 30,000 U.S. jurisdictions. In 2020, you also founded Desegregate CT, a pro-homes coalition of neighbors and nonprofits advocating for better local and state land-use policies to make every community in Connecticut more prosperous, equitable, and sustainable. You also have served as chair of Preservation Connecticut, an adviser to the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and a board member of Latinos in Heritage Conservation.

You earned a B.Arch. and B.A. from the University of Texas and an M.Sc. from the University of Oxford, where you studied as a Rhodes Scholar. You went on to earn a J.D. from Yale Law School, where you were the senior editor of the *Yale Law & Policy Review* and clerked for then-Judge Sonia Sotomayor on the Second Circuit Court of Appeals.

From the early days of your career to your most recent appointment, your inspiring work here in Hartford and across the country continues to connect us in more equitable and sustainable ways.

In recognition of your enormous contributions to the greater good as a public servant, academician, and attorney, I have the honor of presenting you, Sara C. Bronin, for the degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*.