

Lala R. Qadir



Lala R, Qadir currently serves as Senior Director of Technology Security and AI Policy at Microsoft. She is a strategic leader with over twenty years of experience advising public and private entities on complex problems across legal and policy domains, with expertise in the intersection of law, national security, policy, and emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence.

She most recently served as the Principal Assistant Director and Chief of Staff of the National Security Division at the White House Office of Science and Technology. In this role, she supported the National Security Division efforts in advancing U.S. leadership in critical and emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence and biotechnology. She also represented OSTP on the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) at the Assistant Secretary level, in addition to providing strategic guidance on outbound investments and data security.

Previously, Lala was in private practice in the Washington D.C. office of Covington & Burling LLP. Her practice included white collar defense and internal investigations in addition to providing strategic advice on structuring cross-functional compliance programs. While at Covington, she was a member of the firm's Artificial Intelligence Initiative and maintained an active pro bono practice, focused on veterans, voting rights, and criminal justice matters. Prior to joining the firm, Ms. Qadir clerked for Chief Judge James E. Baker of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces.

Ms. Qadir also brings six years of leadership and management experience in strategic planning, performance management, change management, and policy formulation. Before attending law school, Ms. Qadir led federal and international government clients in aligning strategy and driving accountability as a strategic management consultant with Booz Allen in the areas of national security, homeland defense, and judicial reform.

She previously served as Director of Strategy and Performance for the Abu Dhabi Judicial Department in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, and was a Harvard University Center for Public Leadership Fellow with the F.W. de Klerk Foundation in Cape Town, South Africa. She has also published scientific articles in the areas of military energetics and nanotechnology.

She has also served as a Professorial Lecturer at law at George Washington Law School, teaching a course on Artificial Intelligence: Law and Policy and currently is a Distinguished Fellow with the Institute for National Security and Counterterrorism (INSCT) at Syracuse University. She is currently chair of ABA Advisory Committee to the Standing Committee on Law and National Security.

She holds dual degrees in Chemistry and Public Policy Studies from Duke University and a Master in Public Policy from the Harvard Kennedy School. She graduated cum laude from Georgetown University Law Center where she served as Editor-in-Chief of The Georgetown Law Journal.