

# **THE SANDER GROUP, PLLC**

ALEXANDRIA, VA 22306

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## **Press Release**

Alexandria, VA – October 3, 2023 – The Sander Group, PLLC is pleased to announce the addition of two new attorneys – Cecilia Franceski and Mary Anne Zivnuska – to the Firm. This expansion will assist The Sander Group with providing clients additional capabilities in the National Security arena—specifically the Defense, Homeland Security, and Intelligence Sectors.

Cecilia is a former Intelligence Community Analyst who worked her way through law school before becoming a trusted attorney, leader, and adviser who has served at the highest levels of the Government, including at The White House as a Deputy Legal Advisor with the National Security Council Staff (NSC), as a Legal Counsel at the Office of Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) Office of the General Counsel, and as an Attorney with the National Counterterrorism Center. Cecilia’s experience and background allows her to help clients navigate the complex National Security, Defense, Homeland Security, and Intelligence Community landscapes. Cecilia will focus her practice in the areas of National Security regulations, public policy, personnel law, risk management, privacy, and ethics.

Mary Anne is an award-winning attorney in the nuclear, regulatory, National Security, ethics, litigation, and compliance arenas, who has practiced at the federal and state levels, as well as at the classified and unclassified levels. Prior to joining The Sander Group, Mary Anne was one of the two attorneys within the Naval Reactors (NR) Program, which is a Joint Program of the Department of Energy (DOE)'s National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) and the Department of the Navy. Mary Anne also served as an attorney at the Justice Department’s Environmental Defense Section where she led various litigation matters involving environmental laws and regulations. Mary Anne’s practice will focus on complex matters involving the Atomic Energy Act, regulation of nuclear licenses, environmental law, oversight and compliance, occupational safety, and personnel law.

“The Sander Group prides itself on The Three C’s of Hiring – Character, Competence, and Compatibility. There’s not too many people who better display these qualities than Cecilia and Mary Anne. In addition to being excellent attorneys, they are very high-quality people, and even better friends and colleagues, who I’ve known and worked with over the course of my career.” said The Honorable Robert J. Sander, Founding Partner of The Sander Group.

Ms. Franceski received her Juris Doctorate from the Catholic University Columbus School of Law where she graduated magna cum laude. She holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science from the College of the Holy Cross. She also provides pro bono legal support through Catholic Charities where she assists clients in judicial proceedings and administrative matters. Cecilia is married and has four children.

Mary Anne received her Juris Doctorate Degree from Ave Maria School of Law, where she was a member of the Moot Court Board and Publicity Coordinator for the Women's Law Association. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Classical Liberal Arts from Thomas Aquinas College. Mary Anne is married and has four children.

“Both Cecilia’s and Mary Anne’s unique backgrounds and experience will be an enormous benefit to our clients as they work through complex and high stakes challenges while operating in the defense, homeland security, and intelligence sectors.” said Sander “The Sander Group and our clients are fortunate to have Cecilia and Mary Anne on the Team. I couldn’t be more excited about the additions of these two fantastic National Security Attorneys!”

### **About The Sander Group**

The Sander Group is a National Security and Government Contracts Law Firm that was formed in September 2023 by the Honorable Robert J. Sander, who was the Former General Counsel of the Navy and the only person in U.S. History to have served as the Chief Legal Officer of both the Army and the Navy. The Sander Group provides legal services and consulting focusing primarily on National Security, government contracts, compliance, and litigation related matters.

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The Honorable Robert J. Sander can be reached at [rsander@sandergroup.org](mailto:rsander@sandergroup.org) or (703) 459-0442.