

PHI BETA SIGMA FRATERNITY, INC. - UPSILON SIGMA CHAPTER
PROUDLY PRESENTS ITS

98th ANNIVERSARY
CARNATION BALL
& CRESCENT MOON AWARDS GALA

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2025
TINLEY PARK CONVENTION CENTER
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Brother Eric K. Williams

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TOP OF THE TABLE

MDRT

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Program

Welcome

Introduction of Masters of Ceremony

Masters of Ceremony

Black National Anthem

Invocation

****Dinner****

Acknowledgments

Presentation of Crescent Moon Awards

*Presentation of
Scholarships*

Remarks

Dancing until midnight





Lift Every Voice and Sing

**Lift every voice and sing
Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the listening skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us.
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.**

**Stony the road we trod,
Bitter the chastening rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat,
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past,
Till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.**

**God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who hast by Thy might
Led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,
Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee,
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,
May we forever stand,
True to our God,
True to our native land.**

Written by Phi Beta Sigma Brother James Weldon Johnson



Hon. Justice Carl Anthony Walker, DSC 165
Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.,
Upsilon Sigma Chapter
President's Message

On behalf of the Men of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. Upsilon Sigma Chapter, I welcome each of you to our 98th Chapter Anniversary Carnation Ball & Crescent Moon Awards Ceremony. More than 111 years ago, our revered founders A. Langston Taylor, Charles I. Brown, and Leonard F. Morse founded our fraternity with a focus on the ideals of Brotherhood, Scholarship and Service. As a chapter we have maintained those ideas.

I congratulate the recipients of our Crescent Moon Award. They are all women who have made significant contributions to our community through their professions. More than 15 years ago, I approached the Upsilon Sigma Chapter leadership regarding the importance of honoring women of African descent, and I appreciate the voices of Hon. Bro. Clarence Johnson and Bro. Delandis Neely who helped convince the leadership of the time that a salute could be successful.

I give a heartfelt thank you to our guests which include my colleagues in the Judiciary, other elected officials, the guests of our honorees, past honorees, our sisters of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. and Sigma Brothers who are members of other chapters within our fraternity but recognize that even though we have many chapters, we are one Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. I joined Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity many years ago at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. As I reflect, aside from giving my life to Christ at an early age, joining Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity is amongst the best decisions I have ever made. Yes, it is a true brotherhood.

Carnation Ball & Crescent Moon Awards Committee

Chairmen: Hon. Bro. Clarence D. Johnson, DSC 126
and Hon. Bro. Judge Carl Walker, DSC 165

Co-Chairmen: Bro. Dwayne Cecil & Bro. Keewaun Stokes

Bro. Shawn Brown
Bro. Tyrone Dowdell
Bro. Ronald Holt
Bro. Lamarr Johnson
Bro. Dr. Tim Jones
Bro. Mark McDaniel, Esq.
Bro. Arthur Sutton, Esq.

Bro. Joseph Deloney, Esq.
Bro. Anthony Frazier, Sr.
Bro. Larry Horney
Bro. J. Michael Johnson
Bro. Dr. Jessie Kilgore
Bro. Daniel Miller
Bro. Tyrone White

Bro. Renaldo Dixon
Bro. Obeddie Hawkins
Bro. Michael Jarard, Esq.
Bro. Judge Preston Jones
Dr. Lionel Kimble
Bro. Eugene Robinson
Bro. Reginald Wynne, Sr.





OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT
PHI BETA SIGMA FRATERNITY, INCORPORATED



October 18, 2025

Greetings to the Brothers of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.,
Upsilon Sigma Chapter.

On behalf of your Brothers of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity,
Incorporated, I congratulate you as you gather to celebrate your 98th
Anniversary Carnation Ball & Crescent Moon Awards Gala.

In this 111th year of Sigma's existence, reflecting on the sustainable
service and commitment you provide to the communities in Chicago,
IL, is essential. Your chapter continues to be an inspiration, consistent
with this administration's mandate to *Achieve the Vision of Our
Founders*. I congratulate the Honorable Judge Carl Walker, Chapter
President, and all of the brothers who are a part of planning this
awesome event.

As you celebrate, be reminded of the sacred charge we were all given to
“Herald and Defend, even against the world.” I charge you to continue
cultivating and advocating on your campuses and within your
communities, helping to provide sustainable change and equitable
opportunities.

Sincerely,

Honorable David A. Turner
International President
Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.



PHI BETA SIGMA FRATERNITY, INC. GREAT LAKES REGION



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Congratulations

On behalf of the Great Lakes Regional Board and the entire brotherhood of the Great Lakes Region, I extend heartfelt congratulations to Honorable Brother President Judge Walker and the brothers of Upsilon Sigma Chapter on the occasion of your *98th Anniversary Carnation Ball & Crescent Moon Awards Gala*.

For nearly a century, Upsilon Sigma has exemplified the true spirit of *Culture for Service and Service for Humanity*, making an indelible impact within the community, with this beautiful event. The chapter's commitment to brotherhood, scholarship, and service continues to uplift and empower those it serves.

This year's celebration holds a special significance as you pay tribute to women of African descent—a beautiful and powerful acknowledgment of their enduring contributions, strength, and influence within our communities. Your recognition of their legacy underscores Sigma's dedication to honor, equity, and humanity in action.

As more than 600 guests gather to celebrate this milestone, may the evening reflect your rich legacy and reaffirm your continued dedication to brotherhood, scholarship, and service.

Congratulations once again on this remarkable achievement. Continue to lead with purpose and excellence—Intentionally Bold. Intentionally Great.

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Bro. Dr. Willie C. Howard Garrett, Regional Director

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Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., Upsilon Sigma Chapter



**PHI BETA SIGMA FRATERNITY, INC.
Office Of
Illinois State Director
Malcolm Whiteside Jr**

On behalf of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., I, Illinois State Director Malcolm Whiteside Jr., extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Upsilon Sigma Chapter and Chapter President Judge Carl Walker on the occasion of your 98th Anniversary Carnation Ball & Crescent Moon Awards Gala.

This milestone celebration is a testament to your unwavering commitment to the principles of Brotherhood, Scholarship, and Service. As part of this distinguished evening, we are proud to present scholarships to deserving students who represent the bright future of our communities.

We also take this moment to pay special tribute to women of African descent, honoring their strength, resilience, and remarkable contributions to society.

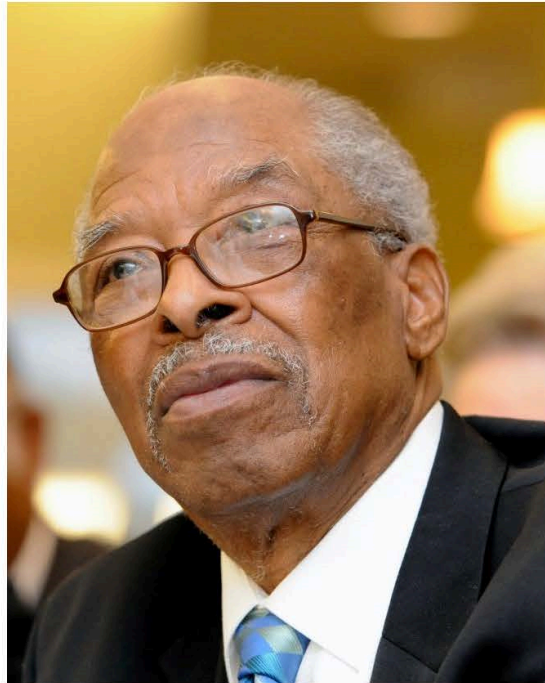
May this evening inspire continued excellence and unity within our beloved fraternity and the communities we serve. Congratulations once again on 98 years of impactful service and leadership.

Faternally,

MW

Malcolm Whiteside Jr.
20th Illinois State Director
708-665-5821
Gold LM #2416





Remembering Our Friend and Brother

The Hon. Bro. Dr. Howard Felder

The **Hon. Bro. Dr. Howard Felder** became a member of Iota Alpha Collegiate Chapter in 1950 and served in the Upsilon Sigma Alumni Chapter from 1952 until his passing in 2020. He was a life member of the Fraternity and in 1995 was inductee #114 into the Distinguished Service Chapter, the Fraternity's highest honor. Hon. Bro. Dr. Felder was a long-time Board President of the Sigma House at 4941 S. King Drive, and he was a member in good standing for seven decades. He has now entered the Omega Chapter, making him a member of four different types of chapters of the fraternity.

We are honored to be presenting the Hon. Bro. Dr. Howard Felder scholarship again at our 2025 Carnation Ball and Crescent Moon Awards Celebration on Saturday, October 18, 2025.



Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.

Upsilon Sigma Chapter

2022 Officers & Other Prominent Chapter Members

Hon. Bro. Justice Carl Walker, CPA
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Bro. Obeddie Hawkins.
1st Vice President

Bro. Michael Jarard, Esq.
2nd Vice President

Bro. Dr. Jessie Kilgore
3rd Vice President

Hon. Bro. Clarence D. Johnson
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Bro. Charles Bracey, Esq.
Chapter Legal Counsel

Bro. Rev. Mario Caple
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Hon. Maurice Moore

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Hon. Bro. Ephriam Persons

Past International Auditor

Hon. Bro. Justice Carl Walker, CPA

Distinguished Service Chapter

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Hon. Bro. Ephriam Persons

Hon. Bro. Maurice Moore

Hon. Bro. George W. Lawrence

Hon. Bro. Andrew Childress

Hon. Bro. Chester Riley

Hon. Bro. Dr. Howard Felder

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Hon. Bro. Justice Carl Walker

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Hon. Bro. David Turner

Past Regional Legal Counsel

Hon. Bro. Justice Carl Walker, CPA

Bro. Randy Crumpton, Esq.

Current Regional Legal Counsel

Bro. Michael Jarard, Esq

Other Prominent Members of Upsilon Sigma Chapter

Bro. Justice Charles E. Freeman, First Black Justice of the Illinois Supreme Court Bro.

Mayor Harold Washington, First Black Mayor of the City of Chicago

Bro. State Rep. LaShawn K. Ford, Illinois House of Representatives



**Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.
Upsilon Sigma Chapter
Crescent Moon Award Honorees
Class of 2025**

Joan Akalaonu, Esq.	Legal Luminary
Judge Tiana Ellis Blakley	Judicial Leadership
Dr. Regina Bracey	Pharmacy
Sis. Shirley Calahan	Human Compassion
Devorah Crable	Media Services
Deborah Douglas	Project Management
Vonyell Foster	Community Engagement
Judge Sophia Hall	Justice - Lifetime Achievement
LaTonya Harris	Leadership in Service
Brenda Holifield	Public Safety
Judge LaShonda Hunt	Judicial Excellence
Sandra Faye Johnson	Innovative Teaching
Rochelle Heard Jones, J.D.	Social Service Impact
Gbenga Longe, Esq.	Community Impact in Law
Betty Magness	Service - Lifetime Achievement
Dr. Kimberly Mann	Higher Education
Karla Harris Miller	Entrepreneurship
Sydney Morris	Education Leadership
Ramona Pouncy	Business
Karyn Quick	Sorority Leadership
Det. Dion Redfield	Investigative Law Enforcement
Ashonta Rice, Esq.	Legal Excellence
Dr. Verletta Saxon	Transformative Leadership
Officer Jessica Scott	Community Policing
Ashley Smith	Elementary Education
Nyshana Sumner, Esq.	Legal Leadership
Janet Sutton	Radio Media
Ald. Jeanette Taylor	Community Organizing
Fredi Taylor	Education
Tamera Taylor	Library Management



Joan A. Akalaonu, Esq.



Attorney Joan A. Akalaonu provides counsel to clients through all steps of complex commercial litigation in both federal and state court. She also advises and represents clients through government enforcement actions, internal investigations, and Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) compliance matters.

Before joining Faegre Drinker, Joan was an associate at Skadden, Arps Slate, Meagher & Flom, where she represented and advised clients in various commercial litigation matters, investigations and enforcement actions brought by government agencies, and internal investigations involving complaints and allegations of employee misconduct.

During law school, Joan externed with Judge Sanjay Tailor, associate judge in the Circuit Court of Cook County, Chancery Division. She also externed at the Loyola Civitas Child Law Clinic, where she served as a child representative for family law cases in domestic relations court and represented a child victim in a federal criminal restitution case in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Indiana.

Prior to law school, Joan, who has a Master's in Social Work, worked for several years as a children's social worker in Chicago and London, safeguarding young children and their families within their homes, through legal care proceedings and through foster care/adoption. Her time as a social worker in London also provided her with ample legal experience, including assisting attorneys throughout cases in legal proceedings, drafting position papers, and providing testimony.

Joan enjoys volunteering, both locally and internationally, and is committed to social justice initiatives. She regularly participates in 5k walks/runs with her mother to support various social causes. Joan is also an avid reader and theater enthusiast. During law school, she served as a catechist teacher for Catholic Confirmation candidates.



Judge Tiana Ellis Blakely



Hon. Judge Tiana Ellis Blakely is a Circuit Judge currently assigned to the Sixth Municipal District where she presides over a felony trial call. She grew up on the Southside of Chicago in the Roseland community. She is a product of Chicago Public Schools, graduating from Morgan Park High School. She then went on to attend Southern Illinois University - Carbondale, where she received a Bachelor of Arts in Administration of Justice. While in college, Judge Blakely was a member of the Saluki Volunteer Corps, where she volunteered throughout the Carbondale community assisting in projects such as Habitat for Humanity, Angel Tree, and Feed the Homeless. She was also a part of the SIU Foundation where she helped to raise funds for the University. Judge Blakely interned with the Cook County Juvenile Probation Department while in undergrad. It was her experience there that led her to want to practice law in the areas of Criminal and Social Justice.

Judge Blakely attended Loyola University Chicago School of Law. While in law school, she was a part of the Elder Law Clinic. She visited Senior Centers throughout Chicago to explain Advanced Care Directives, Powers of Attorney and Guardianship. Judge Blakely also staffed a Pro Bono Guardianship help desk at the Daley Center while in law school. Judge Blakely was named an editor of the Children's Legal Rights Journal at Loyola, and she dedicated much of her time visiting the Juvenile Detention Center to discuss the law and legal rights of the juveniles. After her first year of law school, she decided she wanted to become a criminal trial attorney. She began clerking with the Cook County Public Defender's Office in 2002. While an intern, she litigated several criminal matters under the supervision of licensed attorneys. In November 2004, Judge Blakely became a licensed attorney in the State of Illinois. Thereafter, she joined the Cook County Public Defender's Office. She was assigned to various divisions throughout her career with the Cook County Public Defender. Judge Blakely has litigated hundreds of cases from battery to first degree murder. Recognized for her outstanding litigation skills, Judge Blakely was asked to become a Trial Skills Instructor and Coach with the Office of the State Appellate Defender ("OSAD"). In her role with OSAD she trained and coached new attorneys on effective litigation skills and strategies.

Judge Blakely is an active member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc Tau Alpha Zeta Chapter. She has served as chair and co-chair of various service committees. Judge Blakely is a former PTA Executive Board Member for Poe Classical School, where she regularly volunteers. Judge Blakely was elected to the bench in 2018 and has served as an Instructor for the Illinois Judicial College as well as a Co-Hort Leader for new Judges. She is an active member of the Illinois Judicial Council where she has served on the board since 2020 and currently is the President. She is active in various bar organizations and has been honored numerous times for her dedication and commitment to public service.

Judge Blakely has been a servant of her community throughout her life. She has participated in community marches, voter registration drives, feeding the homeless, and mentoring programs. Judge Blakely is dedicated to the youth in her community, and she regularly visits high schools in the area discussing topics from appropriate police interaction to knowing your rights. Judge Blakely is dedicated to uplifting her community. She has served as a guest speaker at Women Empowerment Forums and Teen Summits. Prior to becoming a judge, she provided pro-bono legal services to residents in her community, advising on expungement, estate planning and landlord tenant issues. Judge Blakely's dedication to public service and compassion for people has continued since being elected. She is a proud wife and mom of three children. She loves to vacation and spend time with family.



Dr. Regina Bracey



Dr. Regina Y. Bracey is currently a pharmacist working as an area pharmacist for Walgreens serving the Belmont-Cragin district and surrounding suburbs. She was born and raised in Chicago, Illinois but later relocated to Mississippi to receive most of her education. She went to high school in Durant, MS. She knew by her junior year in high school that she wanted to pursue a career in the practice of pharmacy. She began her pre-pharmacy studies at Holmes Community College in Goodman, MS where she received her AA degree. She went on to finish her pre-requisites at the University of Mississippi also known as Ole Miss University located in Oxford, MS. She was accepted into the Xavier University of Louisiana College of Pharmacy in the Fall of 1994. Dr. Regina was ecstatic about the decision to attend an HBCU which also happened to be a Catholic school. She felt that by attending an HBCU, she would benefit from getting the level of support that would help her to complete and intensive

pharmacy curriculum in a diverse surrounding.

She loved the fact that Xavier University aimed to increase minority representation in the pharmacy profession. She felt that the University's mission focused on preparing pharmacists to serve medically underserved communities. While in her second year of pharmacy school, Regina began working for Walgreens in 1995. She received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Xavier University in 1998. Shortly after graduation, she became the staff pharmacist for a Walgreens store located on the city's west side. She always wanted to give back to the black community which is why she served in a high-volume store and mostly African-American community for over 18 years. She wanted to be a highly respected and trusted healthcare professional in her community by exhibiting empathy, compassion and determination in helping patients feel better and live healthier lives to maximize optimal health outcomes. She also wanted to be a benefit to the lives of patients who really needed her expertise in the practice of pharmacy. She loves helping others, which is one of the reasons why she chose to become a pharmacist as part of the healthcare system. In her role as a pharmacist, she offers health advice, gives vaccines, answers questions about medications, disease states, drug interactions, side effects, medication management and compliance that help to build trusting relationships with patients and other healthcare providers in the community. On July 10, 2025, Dr. Regina Bracey recently celebrated 30 years of working for Walgreens and being a fundamental part of the healthcare system.



Sis. Shirley Calahan



Sis. Shirley Calahan, a successful businesswoman, community leader, and humanitarian, was born in Selma, Alabama. She earned a B.A. in Business Administration-Management from Chicago State University, graduated from Worsham College of Mortuary Science, and also studied at DePaul University. Her business philosophy is, "By providing compassionate service with integrity, God is glorified through my work and lives are edified."

Shirley's greatest commitment is her relationship with God, her husband of 45 years, Edward, her children, Edric and Valerie, bonus children Edward and LaKisha and grandchildren.

Her impact in the funeral industry

In 1983, Shirley, along with her husband, Edward, founded the Calahan Funeral Home. From 2009 until 2014 Shirley and her husband Edward owned the McNeal-Calahan Funeral Home in Brinkley, Arkansas.

In 2022, Calahan Funeral Home was awarded the Illinois Award of Funeral Service Distinction. Shirley is sought after to facilitate workshops and seminars for students of Mortuary Science. She most recently, was invited to lecture students at her alma mater, Worsham College, on the topic of "The History and Tradition of African American Funerals". In 2023, Shirley had the distinct honor of serving as Worsham's Commencement Speaker. Shirley holds tripartite Funeral Director and Embalmer's licenses in Illinois, Arkansas, and Indiana. She proudly holds the CFSP (Certified Funeral Service Provider) designation from the Academy of Professional Funeral Service Providers.

Shirley has served on numerous professional boards and currently holds memberships with the Illinois Selected Funeral Directors Association, the Cook County Funeral Home Owners Association, and both the Illinois and National Funeral Directors and Morticians Associations. Notably, she was selected to moderate the presidential debate for the National Black Funeral Directors organization and also mentors mortuary students and professionals.

In 2023, Shirley and Edward entrusted the family business to their children, Valerie and Edric, ensuring its continued legacy. Under their capable leadership, the tradition of excellence and compassionate service remains strong.

Her impact in the community

In 2009, Shirley and her family founded the Calahan Foundation, NFP. The foundation, A non-profit 501(c)(3) created in 2009, exists to inspire youth through educational scholarships, college mentoring & meeting the deep needs of humanity. Its mission is to create ways to give a handout to give a hand up to underserved children and their families. To date, the Foundation has awarded over \$400,000.00 in scholarships. When the residents of Houston, Texas were affected by Hurricane Harvey, the Calahan Foundation raised over \$10,000 and 130,000 pounds of supplies. Since its inception, they have given away thousands of coats and toys to children in shelters. In 2019, Shirley was called upon to chair a capital campaign at New Covenant MBC. Under her leadership, over \$125,000 was raised. Shirley is often invited to speak to congregations for special events, including women's day, and business meetings. Additionally, she has judged and mentored young entrepreneurs through Teamwork Englewood's Annual Small Business Competition.



Devorah Crable



Devorah Crable is deeply committed to civic engagement and social impact. Ms. Crable founded philanthropic initiatives such as the former Ovation Arts Council Leadership for Youth program and KNOW YOUR POWER-VOTE, a voter registration campaign that offers education, motivation, and activation strategies via www.KYPVote.US. In recognition of the 60th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act, she aims to boost voter registration and civic literacy by fostering intergenerational dialogue about voting and civic participation. The inaugural initiative presented in collaboration with the Mayor Harold Washington Legacy Committee - of which she is a founding member - won a Communicator Award of Distinction from The Academy of Interactive and Visual Arts for Social Content Series-Public Service & Activism.

Ms. Crable is a trailblazing broadcast journalist and filmmaker dedicated to amplifying the voices of the African Diaspora through her company, MSD Global LLC. Her mission is to craft empowering narratives that deepen understanding and appreciation of Black culture and its global

influence. Her debut narrative film, *TREAD* (2021), won the Avalonia Film Festival's Best Dark Comedy Short Film award in Florida. Her documentary on Art Paris 2018 garnered critical acclaim, as did the Telly Award-winning documentary she co-produced, *Heading West* (1999), which explores Black migration from the South to Chicago's West Side. Ms. Crable also teaches smartphone filmmaking at the Community Film Workshop of Chicago, a 50-year legacy institution preparing filmmakers for industry careers.

Devorah launched her broadcasting journey at Radio One's flagship station WOL in Washington, D.C. and earned an Associated Press Award for her reporting on WRC News Talk Radio. She made history as the first woman to host the nationally syndicated *Ebony Jet Showcase*—a CEBA Merit Award winner—and was part of Chicago's first all-female team at WLS Talk Radio. Her coverage of the 1995 "Million Man March" on WVON Radio received accolades from the Chicago Association of Black Journalists.

Expanding her influence, Devorah managed marketing and PR for Kennedy-King College, where enrollment increased by over 30%. She served as chair and president of the National Alliance of Market Developers (NAMD), establishing the first NAMD history exhibit at the DuSable Museum of African American History. She also created the Know Your Power PSA campaign to highlight Black Americans' economic influence.

Ms. Crable holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Maryland, College Park, and a master's in theological studies from McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago. She is a member of Omicron Delta Kappa and serves as a vestry member at the Church of St. Paul and the Redeemer in Hyde Park. Her numerous awards include the BANBOREE Black Alumni of the Year Award-Maryland, National Council of Negro Women 2016 Trailblazer Award, the Chicago Defender Woman of Excellence Award, the National Civil Rights Library Lifetime Achievement Award, the TV ONE Lifetime Achievement Award, Outstanding Young Woman of America Award, the Life Enrichment Institute Distinguished Communicator Award, Med-Week Eagle Award, Alpha Kappa Alpha Fraternity and U.S. Postal Service achievement awards. She has served on multiple boards—including the Chicago Association of Black Journalists, CAN-TV, Urban Gateways Arts Forum, the Mayor Harold Washington Legacy Committee—and is a founding member of Pigment International, a Black arts collective.



Deborah Marina Douglas



Deborah Marina Douglas, born February 14, a philanthropic and nonprofit activist for more than 50 years, is the Treasurer and Board of Director of the Mary Herrick Scholarship Fund, Director of the DuSable Board of Coalition, Clinical Depression Screener, Deputy Voter Registrar, and Elections Coordinator. She is a proud Member of The Apostolic Church of God (ACOG) where she was one of the founding members of God Reaching After Young Ladies with Charm & Elegance (G.R.A.C.E.) and presently serves as the Chair of the ACOG College Tour and active member of Evangelism of Grace (EOG) where they just help people.

Debby is a Past President of the Chicago Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., which boasts a membership of over 700 college-educated women. While in this role, Debby actively transformed communities while highly engaged in the Sorority's programmatic thrusts of Economic Development, Educational Development, International

Awareness and Involvement, Physical and Mental Health and Political Awareness and Involvement. Debby served as President, Vice President and Director of D'Estee, Inc., 501 (c) (3), Director of Technology - Dr. Betty Shabazz Academy, a past member of CHUMS, Inc. - Scholarship Chair, current member of The Lake Shore (IL) Links, Incorporated, served as Program Chair, Recording Secretary, Co-Chair of Services to Youth, presently Central Area Board Member, Chair of Registration, Floor, Door & Timekeepers, and a Volunteer Speaker and Mentor - Chicago Public Schools. Debby provides Etiquette classes to CPS students and volunteered every Saturday for three consecutive years at Grant-A-Wish Food Depository.

Professionally, Debby spent 30-plus years in the private sector with AT&T and Hewlett Packard, where she served as Human Resources Employment Interviewer, Marketing Sales Instructor, and Certified Technical Project Manager. She interviewed and hired Management & Occupational employees, recruited employees for AT&T, managed Testers, planned, forecasted, implemented hardware and software national deployment projects internally and externally. She managed updates of 7,500 IBM users, implemented Banc One Network consolidation and IT infrastructure, managed Technical Consultants and Engineers. As Certified Technical Project Manager with Hewlett Packard Information technology Services, she managed the upgrade of AT&T Sales nationwide. During her career, Deborah was a Marketing Sales Instructor and Human Resources Manager with demonstrated success in both Fortune 500 companies and non-profit organizations.

Debby has been an Assessor of the Chicago Fire Department, and in 2009, went into Education as a Substitute High School Teacher in District 223 - Homewood Flossmoor, District 228 - Hillcrest, Tinley Park, Oak Forest & Bremen High Schools, and currently a Provisional Core Cadre with Chicago Public Schools (CPS). She attended Southern Illinois University (SIU), Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), National Louis University, (NLU), BS Business Administration/Applied Behavioral Science and the University of Phoenix, MBA/Business Administration. Her continued and devoted service and commitment to the community, people, and organizations is to be credited to her mother, Bernice Marina, who was always actively engaged in community service and involvement.

Debby is the youngest of four siblings, Shirley, James, Robert & William. She is the proud mother of one daughter, Dr. Chimille Tillery, Asst. Superintendent of New Trier, two granddaughters, Kamille Perkins, MSRN and Kennedy Perkins, MS and now PA candidate at Meharry Medical College.

In her spare time, she loves gardening, sitting down with a good book, traveling the country and living by the biblical principle "So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love." 1 Corinthians 13:13.



Vonyell Foster



Vonyell Foster is a lifelong West Side Chicago resident and currently serves as Dean of Students at one of the city's highest-performing charter schools. She is pursuing her Ph.D. in Community Engagement and is the published author of *Hey, I'm Talking to You: Stop Wishing, Start Doing*.

A proud member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. through the Theta Chi Sigma Chapter, Vonyell is deeply committed to the principles of sisterhood, scholarship, and service. Within her chapter, she is known for her

leadership, mentorship, and dedication to building stronger bonds among her Sorors. She actively supports initiatives that not only uplift the chapter but also extend into the broader community.

As the Founder and CEO of the Tech Her Out Foundation, Vonyell leads a nonprofit dedicated to empowering women of color—particularly those over the age of 50—by equipping them with essential technology skills to thrive in the digital world. In addition, she is the Founder of Jewell's Mentoring Program, which nurtures and guides young women through mentorship, leadership, and personal development.

Her community involvement also includes membership in the West Side Giving Circle and participation as one of the first cohorts of Willie's Warriors leadership program initiative through the Chicago Foundation for Women. Whether through her professional role, her service in Sigma, or her nonprofit leadership, Vonyell has made a lasting impact by uplifting others, strengthening community connections, and advancing opportunities for women across generations.

Beyond her professional and community work, Vonyell is a devoted wife and mother of two adult children. Guided by her deep faith in God, she lives each day with purpose, using her gifts to serve, inspire, and create lasting change.

Judge Sophia H. Hall



Hon. Judge Sophia H. Hall is the Presiding Judge of the Chancery Division of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois. The Chancery Division hears, among others, cases seeking equitable relief, corporate and partnership cases, class actions, and declaratory judgment actions. She is also the Administrative Presiding Judge of the Resource Section of the Juvenile Justice and Child Protection Department of the Circuit Court of Cook County. Judge Hall is charged with creating initiatives to facilitate the court and community collaborating to better serve children and families within the Juvenile Court's jurisdiction

Judge Hall was elected as a Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County in 1980. She served in the Criminal Division for four years, and thereafter in the Chancery Division for five years. Both assignments made her the first woman in 20 years to serve in either division. When assigned as the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Division in 1992, she was the first woman ever to serve as the Presiding Judge of any Division or District of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Judge Hall is a past member of the Board of the State Justice Institute to which she was appointed by President William J. Clinton and confirmed by the United States Senate April 3, 1998, concluding her service in 2010.

She is a past Chair of the Board of Trustees of the National Judicial College, past Chair of the National Conference of State Trial Judges of the Judicial Division of the American Bar Association, and past President of the National Association of Women Judges and the Illinois Judges Association. Judge Hall is also a past member of the Board of Directors of the National Center for State Courts and the American Bar Foundation.

Among Judge Hall's publications are "Combating Bias Through Judicial Leadership," a Chapter in the book, *Enhancing Justice, Reducing Bias*, published in 2018, and "Examining New Paradigms to Address the Complexities of Family and Juvenile Cases," a Chapter in the book, *The Improvement of the Administration of Justice*, 7th Edition, 2001, both published by the American Bar Association. She also authored other articles on "Interlocutory Injunctions" and "Declaratory Judgments" published in the *Chicago Bar Association Record*.

Judge Hall received her Juris Doctor from Northwestern Pritzker School of Law and her Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Wisconsin at Madison, Wisconsin.





LaTonya Harris



LaTonya Harris is the President and CEO of The Blessed Child Org., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit headquartered in Chicago's historic Roseland community, with additional offices in Homewood and Olympia Fields, Illinois. Under her leadership, The Blessed Child Org. has become a beacon of hope for at-risk youth, providing consistent support, resources, and opportunities for growth.

Committed to addressing the root causes of violence, Ms. Harris implements strategic, community-based prevention programs that empower young people and promote safer neighborhoods. She also leads weekly food distribution initiatives, ensuring that families in need have access to nutritious meals.

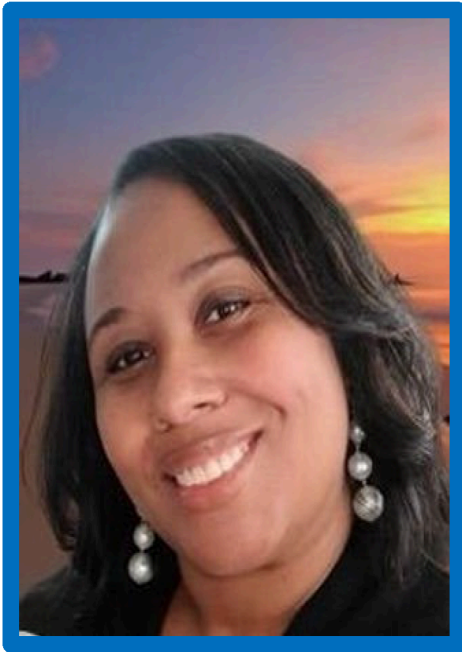
Each year, The Blessed Child Org. hosts its highly anticipated Toy and Coat Giveaway, serving more than 300 children and youth with warmth and joy during the holiday season.

This tradition reflects Ms. Harris's unwavering passion for service and her dedication to uplifting vulnerable populations.

Through her vision, compassion, and hands-on leadership, LaTonya Harris continues to inspire change and fosters resilience in the communities she serves.



Brenda R. Holifield



Brenda R. Holifield: A Life of Service and Dedication

Brenda R. Holifield exemplifies a life devoted to serving those in need, a calling she has embraced wholeheartedly. Born and raised in the vibrant Austin Community on the west side of Chicago, she has dedicated over twenty-four years to the City of Chicago as a distinguished Police Dispatcher for the Office of Emergency Management & Communication Center, a role in which she takes immense pride.

A Career in Emergency Management - In addition to her dispatching duties, Brenda serves as an on-the-job trainer, imparting her expertise to new recruits and ensuring the continuation of exemplary service. Her commitment to excellence is evident in her training approach. She strives to elevate each trainee's skills, believing that they have the potential to be better than they currently are. This mentorship role is vital because these incoming dispatchers will one day hold the same responsibility that she does. Her dedication to training reflects her desire to create a strong and effective team that is ready to serve the community. In this way, she contributes to a culture of continuous improvement within the department.

Academic and Personal Growth - Brenda is academically accomplished, holding a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration with a focus on management, complemented by a Master's degree in the same field. She is resolute in her ambition to further her education by pursuing a Master's degree in Theology, having already embarked on this enlightening journey. Brenda's thirst for knowledge illustrates her commitment to lifelong learning and her desire to deepen her understanding of faith and service.

Sorority Involvement - As a proud member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated since the Fall of 2019, Brenda has demonstrated unwavering commitment to her chapter. Currently, she serves as the Second Vice President and Finer Womanhood Chair of the Zeta Tau Zeta Metropolitan Chicago Graduate Chapter. Her dedication extends to active participation in numerous chapter committees, where she continues to contribute her time, talents, and resources. She also holds a position on the Great Lakes Regional level as a Co-Coordinator of the Zeta Crystal Dove, illustrating her leadership and commitment to her sorority.

Turning Grief into Purpose - Brenda, a devoted mother of three, has navigated the profound sorrow of losing her eldest son at the tender age of 19 in December 2013. In August 2015, she channeled her grief into purpose by founding a nonprofit organization, the "Javar E. Shorty Jr. Foundation, NFP," as a tribute to her son's remarkable life and enduring legacy. This esteemed foundation is dedicated to offering charitable services to at-risk teens and young adults, providing them with essential social support. Through her unwavering commitment, Brenda actively seeks to raise funds to establish scholarships that empower students in need.

Faith and Inspiration - With a steadfast faith in God, Brenda embodies the belief in the words of Matthew 19:26, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." This verse contrasts the limitations of human ability with God's infinite power, suggesting that with God's grace and intervention, even the most challenging situations become achievable. Brenda embodies the essence of what it means to support and uplift those around her. Whether through emergency dispatching or mentoring future recruits, her life is a testament to the power of compassion and a strong sense of duty. Brenda R. Holifield's journey is one of unwavering dedication and selfless service, inspiring those around her to strive for excellence and compassion in all they do.



Judge LaShonda A. Hunt



Hon. Judge LaShonda A. Hunt was appointed a United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois by President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. on May 26, 2023. She previously served for six years as a United States Bankruptcy Judge. Before joining the bench, Judge Hunt had a distinguished career in government service as General Counsel of two Illinois state agencies, an Assistant United States Attorney, law clerk to U.S. District Judge William J. Hibbler (N.D. Ill.), and staff attorney at the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals. She also spent several years in private practice and worked as

in-house counsel in the utility industry overseeing commercial litigation and bankruptcy matters and managing regulatory affairs.

A leader in the legal community, Judge Hunt is an active member of the Black Women Lawyers' Association of Greater Chicago, Inc., where she served as President from 2015-2016, and the Illinois Judicial Council. She served on the Board of Managers of the Chicago Bar Association from 2018-2020 and is currently a member of the Board of Directors of the Chicago Bar Foundation. She is also a Leadership Greater Chicago Fellow (Class of 2013).

A constant student of her craft, from 2020-2023, Judge Hunt served on the Federal Judicial Center's Bankruptcy Judge Education Advisory Committee by appointment of the Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court, helping to develop and teach workshops for new and seasoned bankruptcy judges. She is an American Law Institute member and sought-out speaker on myriad substantive legal topics.

A firm believer in giving back to others, Judge Hunt serves on the Judicial Advisory Committee of Just the Beginning, a pipeline organization, and regularly gives motivational speeches to student groups.

A native Chicagoan who hails from the South Side, she is a blessed mother of three amazing adult children and a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Judge Hunt received her undergraduate degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1992, and her JD from the University of Michigan Law School in 1995.



Sandra Faye Johnson



Sandra Faye Johnson is a humanitarian at heart and an educator and leader by profession. Anyone who knows Sandra will tell you that she puts the needs of others before her own. Her mission is to aid humankind.

She is the wife of a minister. She and her husband, Reverend Lewis Johnson, Jr. of 46 years are the parents of four children who all hold MA degrees. She is a member of Abundant Living Christian Center where Apostle William H. Fleshman is the Founding Pastor.

Sandra serves as an intercessor prayer leader, Sunday School teacher, ministry disciple team member and greeter.

In addition, she is a member of NSPDK, National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc. Sandra is also active in her family's funeral home business, Rhodes Funeral Home.

Sandra is a retired Chicago Public School teacher who served at-risk students for over 30 years. She served as a teacher and a literacy coach. As an educator, Sandra echoed that "Children are our future". She made it her personal responsibility to work toward creating responsible citizens in the classrooms, community and in her home. Sandra's home was never just a home for her family, it was always a place where children in the community were welcomed and could feel wanted and safe. Prior to becoming a teacher, she provided a daycare center in her home for the community in which she lived. Sandra stated that she could not remember a time in which her home consisted of only her four children because there were always children and many times adults who needed care. Additionally, she cared for the elderly and considered it her passion to care for her grandmother, her mother, mother-in-law, father-in-law, and aunt in her home until they made their earthly transitions.

A graduate of Calumet High School, Sandra holds an Associate of Arts degree from Moraine Valley Community College, and a bachelor's degree from St. Xavier University. Additionally, Sandra has earned two Master's degrees from St. Xavier University - one in Education and the other in Literacy.



Rochelle Heard Jones, J.D.



Rochelle Heard Jones, J.D. In my professional and volunteer career, my greatest satisfaction has come from the ability to connect with people.

I have been serving with faith-based and Not-For-Profit organizations for over 50 years.

Presently, I serve at Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church, under the leadership of Pastor Reginald Wayne Sharpe, Jr., in numerous ministries.

My community work extends to Hadiya's Promise; 24 OUR House, Inc.; Woman to Woman; The Confident Woman and National Epicureans, Inc. I have been blessed by serving with each of these entities which have been life changing and very rewarding experiences for me. I live to challenge

myself each day to never stop learning.

My greatest Joy is serving God and encouraging people. I am blessed with many communities' son's and daughter's which have extended my family. My greatest blessing has been parenting Dueshazer, Kendra and Klyn which I call my Terrific Trio! I gained additional family blessings from my Trio which include my daughter in Love Darnisha, my Son in Love Ako and my two Grandsons Ethan and Elam. Together our Village is strong.



Gbenga Longe, Esq.



Attorney Gbenga Longe is the owner and lead attorney of Longe Law Firm and The Chicago DUI Attorneys, law firms dedicated to criminal and DUI defense in the Chicagoland area. After serving as a prosecutor at the Cook County State's Attorney's Office for nearly five years, Attorney Longe founded her own law firm in 2015, driven by a passion for justice and community service.

With an extensive background in criminal law and DUI defense, Attorney Longe has prosecuted and defended hundreds of DUI and criminal cases in the Chicagoland area and its surrounding suburbs. Throughout her career, she has successfully navigated complex legal matters through jury trials, motions, and hearings, handling a wide range of cases including financial crimes, DUI offenses, drug crimes, sex

offenses, theft, and violent crimes.

Attorney Longe holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Bethune-Cookman University, where she was also initiated into Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. through the Mu Beta Chapter in 2003. She went on to earn her law degree from Indiana University School of Law-Indianapolis in 2010. Attorney Longe is an active member of the Tau Alpha Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. in Richton Park, IL.

Beyond her legal practice, Attorney Longe is deeply committed to serving her community. She educates students at truck driving schools about traffic and DUI laws, helping them avoid the potential pitfalls of traffic offenses while having commercial driver's license. Additionally, she provides pro bono criminal record expungement services, offering individuals a second chance at a brighter future.

Her dedication to the legal profession and her tireless work to support her community are a testament to her outstanding contributions and the positive impact she continues to make.



Madam Betty Magness



Madam Betty Magness has been civil rights activist for over 40 years, and her footprint and voice is evidenced across the state of Illinois and the nation. Her most extended period of continuous service has been with the Rainbow PUSH Coalition, where she has held various roles since 1968. Betty's impact on the political arena spans several decades. She was a facilitator for the 1996 Democratic National Committee Training Academy and first African American elected State Chair of the Independent Voters of Illinois-Independent Precinct Organization (IVI-IPO).

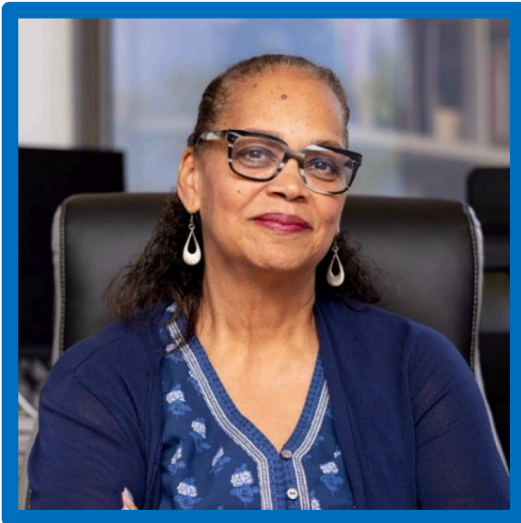
In 2005 she was awarded the Ida B. Platt award by the Cook County Bar Association as the first African American State Chair of IPI-IPO. Currently, she is Co-Chair of Chicago Women Take Action (CWTA) and the Illinois Political Director of National Rainbow PUSH Coalition. Betty is also a member of the Policy Council of Citizens Action Illinois.

Betty has worked with the League of Women Voters for the past several years on voter registration. In January 2020, she represented the League at the Chicago in Focus program on the importance of the 2020 Census. Betty has served on the LWV Chicago Board of Directors since 2020. She previously served as Vice President of Citizen Engagement from 2021 to 2023. Her role as Executive Vice President, League Women Voters Chicago Board began in 2023 after serving as the organization's Vice President for two years. Betty has been recognized for her work by countless organizations. A few of these recognitions include the Chicago Freedom Sister award from Macy's in partnership with the Dusable Museum of African American History; in 2022, she received the inaugural Jane Adams Woman of Vision Award from the National Council of Jewish Women North Shore.

In 2023, Illinois NOW honored her with the Ida B. Wells-Barnett “for decades of work and coalition building for reproductive justice, LGBTQIA+ rights, women’s rights and especially racial justice.” Ms. Magness' work, reach, and impact continue. She is slated to receive the Linda Delaforte/Alice Palmer Lifetime Impact Award from Citizen Action Illinois Policy Council in November, 2025.



Dr. Kimberly A. Mann



Dr. Kimberly A. Mann currently serves as the Chairperson of the Department of Social Work at Chicago State University [CSU]. After completing her PhD in Social Work at Loyola University- Chicago, Dr. Mann joined the new MSW Department at CSU in 1999 where she developed graduate curriculum and across the human behavior and direct practice sequences. Dr. Mann supported the initial accreditation of CSU by the Council on Social Work Education [CSWE] in 2001. Upon her return to CSU in 2024, Dr. Mann supported the final phases of CSWE reaffirmation which the program achieved through 2031.

Mann has been committed to trauma informed practice and early childhood development throughout her career. Her longstanding commitment to practice application and transfer of learning for direct practice led her join the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services [DCFS] in 2008 under a contract with CSU, where she guided the child welfare system in the implementation of trauma-informed practice, developed the Early Childhood Court Team, prevention services for the Family First Prevention Services Act, and served as Project Director for the Illinois Birth- Three [IB3], Title IV-E Waiver. She retired as the DCFS Deputy Director for Research and Child Well-Being in 2022. Dr. Mann supported the initial development of experiential learning using simulation in child welfare as the Co-Director of the Child Protection Training Academy at Illinois State University until July 2024.

Dr. Mann has studied reflective practice and continually strives to build reflection into all activities in program development, implementation and supervision. She currently serves as a faculty member for the Collaborative for Implementation Practice at the University of North Carolina where she provides annual support to their international certificate program in implementation practice.

Within her role as chair, Dr. Mann is committed to the professional development of MSW students. She is currently leading an initiative through the Office of the Provost to support the well-being of all CSU students using Healing Centered Engagement.



Karla Harris Miller



Karla Harris Miller is the epitome of hard work, resilience, and dedication. A successful trailblazer and entrepreneur for over 20 years, she is also a philanthropist passionate about uplifting others and giving back to her community. Known for her enthusiasm, knowledge, and compassion, Karla embodies exemplary leadership and customer service.

As the owner of Edible Arrangements and Harold's Chicken & Ribs, and co-owner of Small Cakes Cupcake & Creamery in Evergreen Park, IL, Karla has established herself as a dynamic business leader who thrives on providing outstanding customer experiences. She actively creates opportunities by employing neighborhood youth and individuals seeking a second chance in life, reinforcing her commitment to social responsibility and community impact.

Karla began her career in customer service as a Flight Attendant with Northwest Airlines (Delta), where she spent 17 years flying both domestically and internationally. During her tenure, she also taught FAA Regulation Rules and Customer Service Training for airline employees. Her passion for aviation led her back to the skies, where she recently joined American Airlines.

She earned a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education with a Minor in Special Education and American Sign Language (ASL) from Northern Illinois University. Karla is a lifetime member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., as well as a member of the Society of Mannequins, the Hyde Park Chamber of Commerce, and other civic and community organizations.

Outside of her professional endeavors, Karla enjoys traveling, teaching, volunteering, and engaging in community service. She is passionate about giving back and inspiring others through education and service. Most importantly, she values spending time with her family—especially.



Sydney J. Morris



Sydney J. Morris is Chief of Schools Officer for Chicago Public Schools. Her dedication to education is rooted in her upbringing on Chicago's West Side, where she learned the importance of leadership and service. Guided by her grandmother's timeless advice to "leave people, places and things BETTER than the way you found them," Morris is passionate about fostering equitable opportunities within Chicago Public Schools. With nearly 25 years of experience in CPS, she has consistently inspired, educated, and empowered students, staff, and communities.

Chief Morris is currently pursuing a Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership from Loyola University Chicago (anticipated December 2025) and holds a

Certificate of Advanced Studies in Administrative Leadership from Lewis University, a Master of Arts in Education from DePaul University, and a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts & Sciences from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Her impactful leadership is evident from her tenure as Principal of John B. Drake Elementary School, where she transformed the school community through staff empowerment, robust partnerships with over 30 organizations, and securing over \$2 million in additional funding for impactful programs. After nearly three years as Chief of Staff to the Chief Education Officer, where she served as a trusted and strategic thought partner utilizing education management, project oversight, and stakeholder engagement, Sydney has been appointed as the Chief Schools Officer for Chicago Public Schools. In this role, she is leveraging her expertise to oversee the Office of Network Support, promote instructional excellence, develop systems and structures to enhance district-wide coherence, and build the leadership capacity of school leaders to ensure equitable learning opportunities for all students.

Beyond her professional endeavors, Sydney is a proud member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., and a devout member of Mars Hill Baptist Church. She cherishes her roles as a wife, mother, daughter, sorority sister, friend, and colleague. These integral aspects of her identity enrich her perspective and strengthen her connection to the diverse community she serves within Chicago Public Schools.



Ramona Pouncy



Ramona Pouncy is the dedicated Co-Owner and Operations Manager of The Rink, Chicago's iconic roller skating rink and the only Black-owned facility of its kind in Illinois.

Alongside her husband Curtis, Ramona acquired The Rink in 2019 to preserve its cultural legacy and elevate it as a hub for wellness, artistry, and community empowerment.

Under her leadership, The Rink celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2025 with renewed energy and visibility—drawing national media attention and reaffirming its role as a multigenerational community staple.

As a Certified Holistic Nutritionist, she's also championed health-forward initiatives, including nutritious items added to concessions and wellness events for the community. Her

leadership style blends high-level operational strategy with on-the-ground service and mentorship—making The Rink a place where youth, families, and seniors feel equally seen and celebrated.

A seasoned professional with over 20 years of experience in healthcare, Ramona began her career at Ciba-Geigy/Novartis, where she earned multiple national sales honors such as President's Club and Circle of Excellence. She went on to become a top-performing national sales trainer across multiple districts and excelled in pharmaceutical, medical device, and hospital sales—representing therapies for hypertension, women's health, neurology, and more.

Her work has been featured on CBS Chicago, FOX 32, WGNTV- Backstory, ABC7 Chicago, NBC Chicago Today, and South Side Weekly, where she is recognized not only for preserving the rich tradition of JB skating, but also for transforming The Rink into a safe, intergenerational space of joy, healing, and Black cultural pride.



Karyn Quick



Soror Karyn Quick is the 18th Illinois State Director of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated. State Director Quick is a distinguished trailblazer and history-maker, proudly serving as the dynamic 18th Illustrious Illinois State Director of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated—and the first ever elected to this prestigious position. A powerhouse of leadership and service, Soror Quick has left an enduring legacy through her work in numerous elected and appointed roles. Her remarkable impact spans three influential regions: the South Central Region, the Mighty Southern Region, and the Great Lakes Region.

Soror Quick’s Zeta journey began over 31 years ago at her beloved alma mater, Jackson State University in Jackson, Mississippi. Today, she continues to live out the founding principles of Zeta as a dedicated member of Sigma Phi Zeta Chapter in Waukegan, Illinois.

Professionally, State Director Quick is a respected leader in the information technology sector, bringing more than two decades of expertise in business transformation, regulatory compliance, and global project management. She currently serves as Director of IT Regulatory Compliance at AbbVie Pharmaceuticals, where she leads initiatives that drive strategic initiatives in cybersecurity, risk management, automation and operational efficiency. Her achievements include building and operationalizing multiple Centers of Excellence, developing innovative compliance frameworks, and delivering multimillion-dollar cost savings and efficiencies.

She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science from Jackson State University and a Master of Business Administration with a concentration in Project Management from Keller Graduate School of Management. In addition, she holds several certifications in Scrum Professional, SAFe 5 Agilist, and Lean Six Sigma Green Belt. She is a two-time best-selling Author of “Cubeonomics: How Smart Women Get Beyond Their Cubes Build Strategic relationships and Boost Their Brand” and Dear Dad.

With her visionary leadership, unwavering dedication, and extraordinary commitment to excellence, State Director Quick continues to inspire, empower, and uplift both the sisterhood of Zeta and the broader communities she serves.



Det. Dion M. Redfield



Dion M. Redfield's life is a testament to service, resilience, and leadership. Born and raised in Chicago, she has spent her entire life giving back to the city that shaped her. A proud Life Member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Dion has embraced more than 40 years of active membership. She was initiated into the historic Beta Chapter in 1985 while studying Communication Design at the University of Illinois at Chicago and later earned her Master's in Public Administration from the Illinois Institute of Technology.

In 2005, Dion helped charter the Chi Omega Omega Chapter—Alpha Kappa Alpha's largest chapter chartered with 101 members. That same year, she and her sorority sisters launched the Imani Pearls Community Foundation, dedicated to uplifting communities including Englewood, Bronzeville, Hyde Park, Washington Park, Douglass, Oakwood and Kenwood. Today, the Foundation continues to thrive as she is a continuing Board member, expanding scholarships, building partnerships, and empowering youth with the motto "Faith Invested, Communities Uplifted."

Parallel to her sorority and community work, Dion built an extraordinary career in law enforcement. She served more than three decades with the Chicago Police Department, beginning in Englewood as a patrol and tactical officer, then moving into undercover narcotics work, and ultimately serving over 25 years as a Detective in homicide-sex crimes and domestic violence. She became a vital bridge between victims, prosecutors, and police, especially in domestic violence cases, ensuring that survivors were heard, protected, and given a path toward justice. Among her many honors are commendations for solving major crimes, including a high profile triple homicide starting in the south suburbs, Robbins, IL and unfortunately ending on the south side of Chicago.

Though retired from full-time duty, Dion remains committed to justice. She now works as an Investigative Analyst in the Cold Case Unit at Chicago Police, focusing on cases involving African American women whose lives were cut short by violence. She also serves on the State of Illinois FOID Card Review Board, appointed by Governor JB Pritzker. The FOID Card review board serves as a final appeal board to those whose FOID card is suspended and revoked.

Her impact is not confined to her career or her sorority. Dion serves numerous boards, including past participation with the Southeast Chicago Chamber of Commerce, Cook County Inter Agency Fatality Review (reviews cases of abuse, neglect, and unexplained deaths of the elderly) and lastly, the Jesse Owens Park Advisory Council (JOPAC), where she champions youth, small businesses, and neighborhood revitalization of her community. Through her leadership, she has mentored young women at King College Prep, spoken to students through the Chicago Police Department's "We Care Role Model Program," and trained professionals through the Chicago Metropolitan Battered Women's Network along with training newly promoted Detectives.

Across every chapter of her life, Dion has combined courage with compassion. She has broken barriers as a detective, built pathways as a mentor, and engaged her community as a servant leader. Her legacy is one of unwavering dedication to Chicago and to the countless lives she has touched along the way. Through every role—sorority leader, mentor, community builder, advocate—Dion embodies the spirit of faith invested and communities uplifted.

Ashonta C. Rice, Esq.



Attorney Ashonta C. Rice has been a tireless advocate for children in twenty years of practice representing clients in Domestic Relations, Child Protection, and DCFS administrative hearings. As a Chicago Bar Association approved Child Representative and Guardian ad litem, she is routinely appointed by the Cook County Circuit Court to serve as Child Representative and Guardian ad litem in some of the most contentious and complex cases. She is regarded as a pragmatic and skilled litigator with mediation experience resulting in written agreements in over 60% of sessions. Ashonta C. Rice is recognized for delivering justice when all other options have been exhausted. She is particularly recognized for successfully litigating complaints in circuit court after administrative hearings have failed with prior counsel.

Ashonta has been recognized as one of the 10 Best Attorneys for Exceptional and Outstanding Client Service by the American Institute of Family Law Attorneys six years in a row – 2018-2024 and has been nominated to Super Lawyers in 2024 and included in Forbes Advisor's Best Divorce Lawyers of Chicago, IL of 2023. She has also served as a panelist in continuing legal education seminars for the Illinois State Bar Association and the Black Women Lawyers Association of Greater Chicago, and as Co-Chair of the Solo and Small Firm Committee of the BWLA from 2019-2022.

Ashonta's educational background includes a B.A. in Finance from University of Illinois Champaign, my J.D. from Loyola University New Orleans School of Law, and a certificate in Divorce Mediation Skills from Northwestern University School of Professional Studies.

Presently, Ashonta is a member of the ISBA Assembly-Cook Circuit, ISBA's Bar Elections Supervision Committee, the Assembly Agenda Committee and has completed many Continuing Legal Education hours through ISBA programming.

Ashonta's board service experience includes having served as Financial Secretary on the elected board for local chapter of a national organization with annual budget of over one quarter million dollars for two consecutive two-year terms. In her service on the elected board for local chapter of national bipartisan political organization, she has sponsored introduction of youth to Illinois state legislature through chairing the Mentorship committee. Privately, she spearheaded a community group for a now annual installation of a cultural donation to the Museum of Science and Industry and personally sponsors a young adult religious-based group to its regional leadership training conference.





Dr. Verletta Saxon



Dr. Verletta Saxon is a visionary leader in child welfare, blending strategic insight, deep compassion, and innovation to catalyze meaningful system change. With more than 20 years of service, she brings expertise in system structure, administration, and implementations science, she is committed to advancing well-being, well-becoming, equity, and integrity across child- and family-serving systems.

Her leadership is grounded in the five domains of well-being: physical health and safety; education and cognitive health; social, emotional and mental health; economic security; and racial and ethnic equity, as articulated in the Illinois DCFS's Cultivating Well-Being: Well-Becoming and Resiliency framework. She understands that well-being is multi-dimensional, requiring environments where

employees and families are physically safe, cognitively engaged, emotionally supported, economically stable, and equitably affirmed so they can thrive. Equally, she embraces the concept of well-becoming, recognizing that employees, children, and families are not only navigating the challenges of today, but also building the capacities, opportunities, and resilience they need for the future.

Central to her philosophy is elevating the autonomy and voice of individuals with lived experience as well as marginalized communities, the end users of these systems, because they hold the deepest knowledge of what must change and how systems can better serve families. By centering their expertise, she ensures that solutions are not only strategic but also grounded in the realities of those most directly impacted. This is evident in the work she has done to reach out to communities to define well-being and well-becoming, implement system change as a result of hearing from marginalized communities, and creating a consultation program for individuals with lived experience so they can be seen as paid experts in systems.

Drawing on her extensive background in mental health and child welfare, she bridges practice, policy, and research to strengthen leaders, equip organizations, and build sustainable structures that foster growth and thriving communities. Through her work, Dr. Saxon has become a trusted thought partner and change agency who not only reimagines what is possible but also creates systems and relationships necessary to make it a reality. She embodies the belief that strong leaders create strong systems, and strong systems create healthier, more resilient communities.

Her leadership style is often described as a powerful blend of dynamism, strategic brilliance, and purpose-driven vision. She believes in empowering people to grow, whether they remain within the organization or move to new roles and holds the expectation that challenging ourselves as leaders enables us to thrive in service of others.

As a change agent, Dr. Saxon unites research, practice, and lived expertise to co-design responsive systems that honor those most impacted by systems. She cultivates leaders, cultures, and structures that prioritize holistic well-being and well-becoming, recognizing that individuals and family resilience are strengthened when all five domains are honored and advanced, and when the future potential of every child and family is nurtured.



Officer Jessica Scott



Officer Jessica Scott has Created and continued a life dedicated to the servitude, help and well-being of others, Police Officer Jessica Scott is a dynamic powerhouse whose life and career has been defined by dedication, service, and an unwavering commitment to her community. With over 18 years of combined experience in law enforcement and social services, Officer Scott has built a legacy rooted in integrity, compassion, and impact.

Chicago born and raised, Officer Scott is no stranger to the adversities of life. The youngest of three born to a single mother, she has been able to overcome the many obstacles of life set before her. Building her resilience and strength, Officer Scott decided at a very young age to dedicate herself by helping, encouraging, and building up all who she encounters. Accepting Christ at a very young age and growing up in church (Bright Star Church of God) under the teaching and covering of Pastor Christopher T. Harris Sr, her spirituality and faith has been the foundation and driving force of the woman she has grown to be and her heart for humanity.

In her academic career, she is an enthusiastic scholar graduating from Simeon Career Academy and later obtaining her bachelor's degree in criminal justice also graduating with honors. During her 10-year tenure working in social service, Officer Scott has served as a court/family advocate for DCFS, a senior counselor and housing specialist for the city placing youth and young adults in safe, suitable, and stable housing, and as a residential counselor working extensively with mental illness, substance/alcohol, and the homeless populations.

As a noble and proud police officer for the last eight years, she has earned numerous accolades/awards for her dedication and excellence—including the prestigious Superintendent's Award. Her time in uniform has been marked by a deep sense of duty and a drive to protect and uplift those around her. As an honorable Officer, she has been privileged to work for the office of the Superintendent; coordinating and facilitating emergency and safety plans for the city; serve, work and coordinate with the Federal Bureau of investigation for presidential details, and work in depth with children and schools as G.R.E.A.T instructor as well as for the Officer friendly program. She now graciously serves as the Faith-Based Liaison in the 6th district CAPS Office where she boldly has purposed her position to shed light, love, and hope through the belief of faith. In this role, Officer Scott provides healing, love and support in being able to engage with the community, spearhead and organize large community events where she had been able to bless the masses with food/groceries, shelter and relocation assistance, educational assistance, and mental health services. Dedicated to providing a solution to the issue that plague the city, Officer Scott boldly leads weekly prayer walks in addition to working closely with the likes of Father Michael Pfleger (St. Sabina), John Hannah (New Life Covenant), the mayor's office and several Alderman's within the city. She has been able to take part in an integral role working with organizations such My Block, My Hood, My City, Chicago Cred, Alternatives to Violence (ATV), and My CHI to provide help to those in need. No job is too big or too small as she bravely approaches every call, every person, and every matter with professionalism and empathy, earning her the respect and trust of her peers and communities she serves. Of all her accomplishments, her greatest title is mother to her amazing 15-year-old son.

Today, Officer Scott continues her mission in community policing, where she blends her law enforcement expertise with her passion for outreach and relationship-building. She believes in proactive engagement, restorative practices, and creating safer neighborhoods through collaboration and trust. Whether in uniform or in advocacy, Officer Scott purpose is one of strength, hope, and heart. She is a leader, a mother, and a changemaker—committed to making Chicago a better place, one connection at a time.



Ashley L Smith



Miss Ashley L. Smith is a dedicated educator and faith leader with a passion for teaching, mentoring, and serving her community. She holds a Master of Divinity from North Park Theological Seminary and a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from Illinois State University.

Since beginning her teaching career in 2012, Miss Smith has inspired and equipped students through her commitment to excellence in education. She currently serves as a 7th Grade Science Teacher at Heritage Middle School, where she is the 7th Grade Team Leader, co-chair of the Black Heritage Committee and Science Night Committee, sponsor of the Leading Ladies Mentoring Program, co-advisor of the House of Friendship, and

coach of the competitive LEGO robotics team. With over a decade of experience, she has guided students in both academic growth and personal development, fostering curiosity, confidence, and resilience.

Beyond the classroom, Ashley serves as a board member for the Northern Illinois Science Educators (NISE), where she helps advance high-quality science instruction and supports educators across the region.

She is also active in the children's ministry at The Go Church Chicago in Hammond, Indiana. Teaching the children how to live their faith out loud and how to face life's challenges with faith.

Ashley has been a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated since 2010 and is currently active in the Joliet Area South Suburban Alumnae Chapter. Through her sorority involvement, she continues to champion education, service, and community empowerment.

Rooted in her faith, Ashley combines her background in theology and education to mentor and lead with compassion, creativity, and vision. Whether in schools, church, or the broader community, she is committed to empowering the next generation to thrive academically, socially, and spiritually.

Nyshana Kali Sumner, Esq.



Nyshana Kali Sumner was born and raised on the south side of Chicago. The proud daughter of Judge Thomas Sumner, Retired, and Sherry B. Sumner, MSW. She attended the University of Illinois at Chicago, where she received her Bachelor of Science degree in Biological Sciences. Nyshana received her Juris Doctor from The John Marshall Law School, now known as The University of Illinois Chicago School of Law, in 2004. Not coincidentally, both schools are her parents' alma mater.

Nyshana started working as an Assistant State's Attorney with the Cook County State's Attorney's Office in June 2004 and has dedicated her entire legal career to serving the public through her work as an ASA. She has worked in the First Municipal Division, the Juvenile Justice Division, and the Felony Trial Division,

where she has litigated hundreds of misdemeanor and felony cases, including over 40 felony jury trials. She is currently assigned as a first chair to a felony courtroom at 26th and California.

Nyshana is very active in giving back to the community through her participation on committees in Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.- Chicago Alumnae Chapter, and through her church, St. Mark United Methodist Church. She served as a Girl Scout Troop Leader for over twelve years. She is currently serving as a co-chair of the Social Action Committee and is an enthusiastic member of the music committee. She is a member of and has served in leadership roles within several professional and civic organizations, including the National Bar Association, the Cook County Bar Association, the National Black Prosecutors Association, the National Council of Negro Women-Chicago Central Section, and the League of Women Voters.

Nyshana is happily married to Madison Dowlen, and when she isn't working, she enjoys traveling with family and friends, singing, listening to music, gardening, cooking, reading, and sharing her knowledge and collection of America's Native Spirit with friends.





Janet C. Sutton



Janet C. Sutton was born one of three children and the only daughter of the late Pastor James and Mother Calitha Harris and was spiritually developed in the True Holiness Church of God in Christ in Harvey Illinois. Janet started quoting the word of God at an early age and her mother would often have her quote Psalm 138. There was always a call on her life to spread the gospel whether through song or preaching and teaching the Word of God.

Janet's great respect and love for gospel music grew as she began working with music departments, she was the first choir director of her father's church.

Janet has served as mistress of ceremony for Chicago Gospel Festival, was a member of the Gospel Music Stellar Awards Committee, and asked to judge the McDonald's Choir Competition. She rearranged a hymn for the Voices of ACME Church Choir that won them first place in the "How Sweet the Sound" Choir competition.

Janet has solid roots, engagement, and involvement in the gospel community; however, her father's vision was for her to become a radio announcer. In pursuit of the vision, the journey took her to WLNR 106.3 FM; WMPP in Ford Heights, Illinois; WWCA in Gary, Indiana, and WYCA 92.3 FM on Saturday mornings from 10am – 12 noon as "The Christian Community Gospel Hour" and now has been on radio for over 40 years. Janet took time to be present for her first ministry, her home with husband Attorney Arthur Sutton and Sons Arthur II and Jucari.

She also works alongside her husband with his group, The Gift of Praise singing lead and background vocals and is on the scholarship committee. Janet Sutton has remained on the gospel airways with new vision and anointing, ready to serve the people of God through her music ministry and continues to host "The Christian Community Gospel Hour" on WBGX 1570 AM on Saturday afternoons from 12 noon – 2 pm. Ministry is her purpose in life.



Fredi Taylor



Fredi Taylor is an accomplished educator, leader, and community advocate whose work reflects a lifelong commitment to service and empowerment. A proud member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated – Zeta Zeta Chapter, Fredi currently serves as Chapter President, where she leads more than 80 women in advancing scholarship, service, sisterhood, and Finer Womanhood across Dolton, IL and the surrounding South Suburban communities.

Fredi is also the visionary behind the chapter's LIGHT Initiative (Leadership – Integrity – Growth – Honor – Trust), a guiding framework for strategic programming, governance, and member development.

Professionally, Fredi serves as an Instructional Coach in a south suburban middle school district, supporting teachers across content areas in strengthening classroom practice, cultural competence, and student achievement. A career educator, she has worked in Harvey, Dolton, and Park Forest schools, always centering equity, literacy, and student voice.

Fredi extends her passion for service as a Trustee on the Olympia Fields Public Library Board, where she champions literacy, access, and equity for the broader community. She is also active in community partnerships and other initiatives focused on education, scholarships, and family support. Additionally, she is a gifted vocalist and performer, often using her talents to uplift and inspire others.

Fredi's work is grounded in her belief that true leadership is measured not by titles, but by the positive impact we leave on others. She is deeply honored to receive the Crescent Moon Award.

Aldерwoman Jeanette Taylor



Hon. Jeanette Taylor is the alderwoman of Chicago's 20th ward, taking office as a member of the Chicago City Council in May 2019. She won an open race to succeed outgoing alderman Willie Cochran in the 2019 Chicago aldermanic elections. She is a member of the Democratic Socialists of America. Chicago, Illinois.

Hon. Ald. Jeanette B. Taylor's record of fighting for our community is unmatched, both as a community organizer and elected official. She is the essence of unbought and unbothered. Most importantly, a game-changer in Chicago Politics.

BEFORE becoming the 20th Ward Alderwoman, Jeanette:

- Proud LSC member and LSC Facilitator for 23 years.
- Parent Advocate and Organizer for families of students with special needs.
- Parent Education Organizer for KOCO (Kenwood Oakland Community Organization).
- Led the 34-day hunger strike that forced Rahm Emanuel to keep Dyett High School open with over \$14 million in improvements.
- Pressured the University of Chicago administrators to open a life-saving adult trauma center on the South Side.
- Fought to bring a Community Benefits Agreement Ordinance to stop displacement from the area around the Obama Center—so that working families can find housing they can afford and get jobs in our community.
- ECPS civilian oversight of the police,
- SRO out of Chicago Public Schools.

Jeanette is a proud mother and grandmother. Additionally, she is a Proud CPS alumna, graduating from Irvin C. Mollison and Dunbar Vocational Career Academy. She served on her son's Local School Council for over twenty years and has trained hundreds of parents to run for LSC, enabling them to advocate for their children.

She lives in a two-flat in Woodlawn with her children.





Tamera Taylor



Public Manager | Civic Leader | Advocate | Artist
Tamera Taylor, affectionately known as DJ GALAXIE, is a powerhouse of purpose whose life and career reflect a deep commitment to service, creativity, and community. With over 20 years of experience in finance, accounting, and auditing across both private and public sectors, Tamera has spent the last decade championing civic engagement and local governance. As the Library Business Manager for the Glenwood-Lynwood Public Library District, she supports a vibrant community of 18,000 residents, ensuring access, equity, and excellence in

public service.

A distinguished scholar, Tamera earned her Master of Public Administration (MPA) in 2025 with honors, driven by a personal mission to uplift others and create lasting change. Her academic accolades include the 2024 Dr. Lowell W. Culver Public Administration Fellowship, the 2024 Faculty Senate Student Scholarship, and induction into the prestigious Pi Alpha Alpha Honors Society in 2023.

Beyond her professional achievements, Tamera is a proud mother of three adult daughters, a former Girl Scout leader, an autism advocate, and an active member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated—part of the Divine Nine—where she continues to serve with grace and pride.

As DJ GALAXIE, Tamera transforms spaces through sound, bringing joy and connection to festivals, milestone events, and special causes. Her artistry as a mobile disc jockey is more than entertainment—it is an extension of her public service, celebrating culture and community. She also serves as the resident DJ for library programming, blending education and celebration in equal measure.

Tamera's story was recently featured in *GREAT MIGRATIONS: A PEOPLE ON THE MOVE*, a powerful history series by Dr. Henry Louis Gates Jr. In Episode 1, she shared her family's courageous journey from Texas to Chicago—a migration marked by hardship, resilience, and the kindness of strangers. "It was the community that saved my family," she reflects, "and I hope to make my family proud with my lifelong commitment serving the community with the same act of kindness."

Tamera Taylor is a living testament to perseverance, passion, and the transformative power of public service.



Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., Upsilon Sigma Chapter



2025 Crescent Moon Awardee - Upsilon Sigma Chapter DEVORAH CRABLE

It is a great honor to be among the distinguished 2025 Crescent Moon Awardees and to be recognized by Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. (PBS) - Upsilon Sigma Chapter. I stand in unity with PBS in its mission to "change the voting culture" in America. It is a privilege to serve as a voting activism torchbearer—carrying forward the legacy of the late statesman, civil rights leader, and Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity member, Congressman John Lewis.

BE VOTE READY!

Thank You

Devorah Crable
Founder
Know Your Power VOTE
October 18, 2025



60th
VRA
Change is here.

*"Democracy is not a state. It is an act,
and each generation must do its part"*

-Congressman John Lewis

BE VOTE READY

Register to vote @ www.KYPVOTE.US

KnowYourPowerVOTE.US



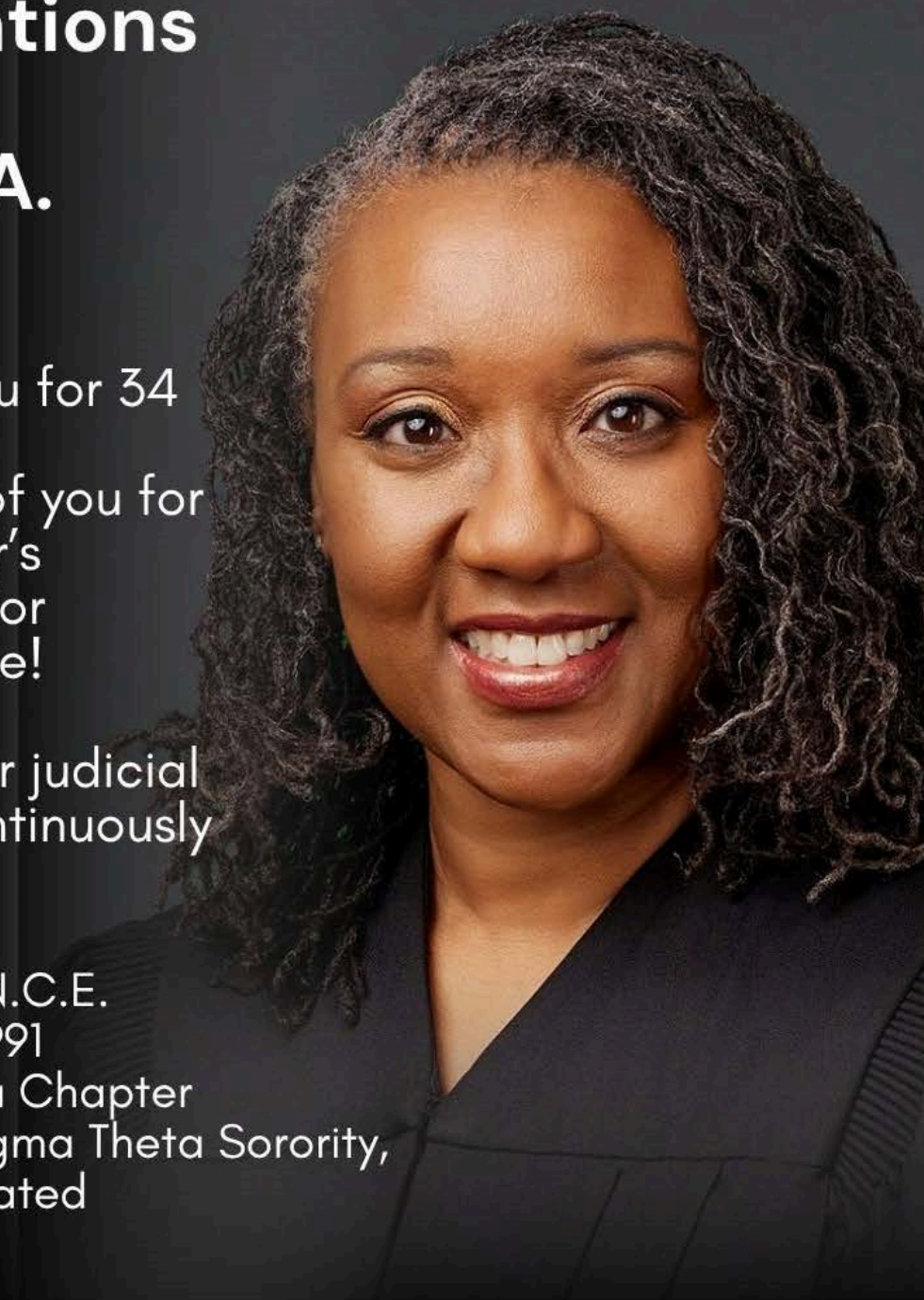
Congratulations Judge LaShonda A. Hunt!

We have loved you for 34
years and we are
incredibly proud of you for
receiving this year's
Crescent Award for
Judicial Excellence!

We know that your judicial
legacy will be continuously
blessed!



Love,
E.S.S.E.N.C.E.
Spring 1991
Alpha Nu Chapter
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority,
Incorporated



Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., Upsilon Sigma Chapter



Linked in Friendship, Connected in Service
Lake Shore (IL) Chapter

THE LAKE SHORE (IL) CHAPTER OF THE LINKS, INCORPORATED

CONGRATULATES
DEBORAH M. DOUGLAS
CRESENT MOON AWARD





ZETA PHI BETA SORORITY, INCORPORATED

ZETA ZETA EXECUTIVE BOARD STANDS WITH OUR PRESIDENT

Fredi Taylor

POWER FORWARD WITH

L ● Leadership
I ● Integrity
G ● Growth
H ● Honor
T ● Trust



*Congratulations on your
2025 Crescent Moon Award*

ZETA ZETA CHAPTER | DOLTON, IL EXECUTIVE BOARD 2025-2026

Fredi N. Taylor
Kim Porter-Beamon
Papillon Spinks
Kalise Anderson
Nathalia Washington
Tonia Lewis-Rogers
Traci Lynn Hayes
Yolanda Washington
Veronica Collier
Vanessa G. Harris

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Third Vice President
Financial Secretary
Treasurer
Secretary
Parliamentarian
Chaplain
Editor





Congratulations Karla

We are proud of you and it's no surprise that you were recognized for your hard work, dedication, and commitment to others. You have left an impressive footprint for others to follow and have been of "Service to all Mankind".



With love,
Karen, Kathy & Chuckie



Congratulations

Rochelle Heard Jones, J.D.

2025 Crescent Moon Award Honoree



**Presented by Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.
Upsilon Sigma Chapter – Chicago, Illinois**

On this remarkable occasion, we proudly salute you, Rochelle, for being named a recipient of the prestigious Crescent Moon Award—a recognition of your enduring commitment to Social Impact and justice in our communities.

From Springfield to Chicago, your journey has been a beacon of purpose. On behalf of the brothers of the Beta Omicron Sigma Alumni Chapter of Columbus, Ohio, we honor your unwavering dedication, your tireless advocacy, and your deep-rooted love for the people you serve.

Over 40 years ago, Carter D. Womack and I witnessed your passion firsthand in Springfield, Illinois. Today, that same fire continues to illuminate paths for others, inspiring generations to rise, speak, and act.

May this night be a celebration of your legacy—and a reminder that your work continues to shape the future with grace, courage, and conviction.

With admiration and respect,

Dr. Carter D. Womack, 27th and 29th International President, FBS
Bro. Gearl Diggs, Former State Director of Ohio, FBS
The Brothers of Beta Omicron Sigma Chapter, Columbus, Ohio



Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., Upsilon Sigma Chapter



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Congratulations!

2025 CRESCENT MOON AWARD RECIPIENT



DR. KIMBERLY MANN

A Legacy of Compassion: Honoring the achievements, career, and tireless advocacy of Dr. Kimberly Mann. Dr. Mann, we salute you and appreciate your fierce advocacy for the well-being of children and families of the State of Illinois. The impact that you have had on my life and the lives of all those you hold dear is immeasurable.

Much Love,
Renaldo

Congratulations!

2025 Crescent Moon Award Recipient

Honoring a Transformative Leader
Dr. Saxon, the brilliance, compassion, innovation, and leadership you bring to the organizational systems you challenge and change are truly visionary. We celebrate all that you have accomplished, and our communities are thriving because of your commitment to well-being, well-becoming, and equity. I look forward to the world that you are helping to change.

Much Love,
Renaldo





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We The Rhodes Family and Staff want to take this time to congratulate Mrs. Sandra Johnson on her achievement in receiving the Crescent Moon Award, from the men of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., Upsilon Sigma Alumni Chapter. We are so proud that others see you the way that we see you, with you're love and professionalism in everything that you do. From us to you, we offer our sincere congratulations to you on a job well done.



Funeral Directors

Malisha Porter, Terry Morris and Bobby Culbreath



Congratulations

**BISHOP-DESIGNATE BRO. EDWARD JONES IV, SOROR LA TANYA JONES,
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Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., Upsilon Sigma Chapter



Congratulations!

2025 CRESCENT MOON AWARD
RECIPIENT FOR INVESTIGATIVE LAW ENFORCEMENT

Dion M. Redfield

WHEN I DARE TO BE POWERFUL — TO USE MY STRENGTH
IN THE SERVICE OF MY VISION, THEN IT BECOMES LESS
AND LESS IMPORTANT WHETHER I AM AFRAID -
AUDRE LORDE

The Women of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc®
USS A.L.A.E, Spring 1985, Beta Chapter we are proud of
you receiving this special honor. We would like to say
THANK YOU for all the ways you have worked effortlessly
for the Community, your Commitment and Contributions to
Law Enforcement and the Sorority. **We love you!**

Jennifer, Vanessa, Audrey, Catherine,
Brenda, Felicia, Robi, Leisa, Denita, Paula, Mary,
Deborah, Valada, Zymenar



CONGRATULATIONS!



Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., Upsilon Sigma Chapter



RAMONA POUNCY

2025 CRESCENT MOON AWARD RECIPIENT

*With love and pride, your husband
Curtis and children Riannah, Trenton,
and Colton join The Rink family
in celebrating this remarkable honor.*



To us, Sandra Johnson has never been “just a teacher”—she is the heart of our family. We know her as the sister, aunt, mother, grandmother and loved one who fills every room with her warmth, her laughter, and her quiet strength. But to so many others, she is “Mrs. Johnson,” the teacher who inspired, encouraged, and changed lives in the classroom.

Sandra has a gift for teaching, and it isn’t just about books and lessons. She has a way of reaching people, of making each student feel seen and understood. She believes deeply in every child that crosses her path, and she never stops reminding them of what they are capable of. During her career she saw her students as more more than names on a roster—they were her kids too. And the impact she made on their lives will continue to ripple far beyond the walls of a classroom.

We are so proud of the legacy she built. Her colleagues admired her dedication, her creativity, and her willingness to share her wisdom. Her students carry pieces of her encouragement and guidance with them wherever they go. And we, her family, carry the joy of knowing that the love we felt from Sandra is the same love she poured into her work every single day.

Sandra’s story is one of kindness, faith, and devotion—not just to her family, but to every student she touched. We honor her not only for her accomplishments as an extraordinary teacher, but for the way she lives her life—with patience, generosity, and a heart big enough to lift up everyone around her. We are blessed to call her ours, and the world is brighter because of her.

Congratulations Grandma!

With all our love, the family.
Written by LaT’ya Johnson





Congratulations

SYDNEY MORRIS

**On your Educational Leadership
Award and your excellence in
improving academic structures
and learning systems**

In Sisterhood,

Starlet Banks
Adrian Dobbins
Jo Ann Hawkins White

Your Sorors
of

SIGMA GAMMA RHO SORORITY, INC.



Congratulations

Ronald M. Holt

Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.

Upsilon Sigma Chapter

On a successful
Carnation Ball and Crescent Moon
Awards Gala



Love,
Master
Bradley
Holt

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bholtSpeaks
gmail.com

YouTube Channel: Master Bradley Holt
– Subscribe, Like, & Comment Down
Below



Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., Upsilon Sigma Chapter



24 O.U.R House, Inc.
Congratulates
Rochelle Heard Jones, B.A., J.D.
We are very proud of you!

Brothers of PHI Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.
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President/CEO

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The Chicago DUI Attorneys and The Longe Law Firm LLC would like to congratulate the Upsilon Sigma Alumni Chapter on its 98th Anniversary Carnation Ball.



Attorney Gbenga Longe
Crescent Moon Award Recipient

■ @thechicagoduiattorneys

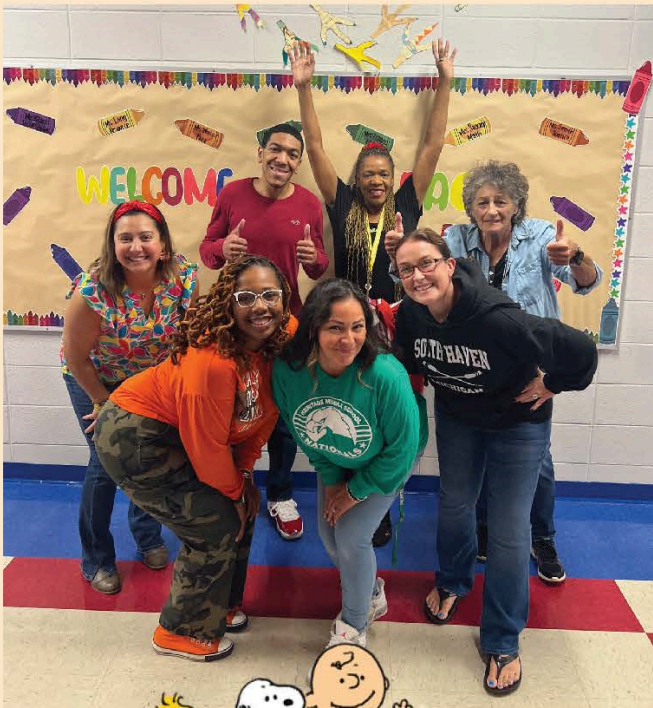
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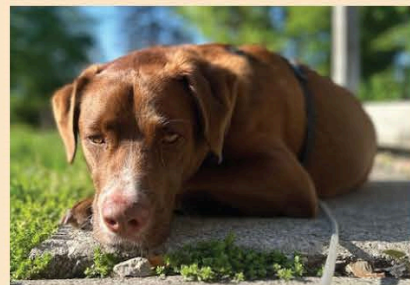
Ashley Smith



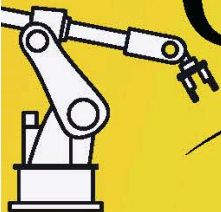
♥♥ SD 171 - TEAM 7 ♥♥



**CELEBRATING AN
OUTSTANDING
EDUCATOR, OUR
PASSIONATE TEAM
LEADER, DEDICATED
DOSTI ADVISOR,
BEST DOG MAMA,
AND A ONE OF A
KIND FRIEND TO ALL.**



Congratulations





Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., Upsilon Sigma Chapter



Congratulations

TO OUR PRESIDENT

Freda Taylor

ON RECEIVING THE

2025 CRESCENT MOON AWARD



**ZETA PHI BETA
SORORITY,
INCORPORATED**

**UNDISPUTABLE
ZETA ZETA CHAPTER
DOLTON, IL**

*Scholarship
Service
Sisterhood
Finer Womanhood*

SCAN TO
FOLLOW US





Congratulations

Karla aka "Boss Lady"

We are honored to celebrate our boss, mentor, and inspiration on receiving the prestigious **Crescent Moon Award**.

Karla, your drive, dedication, and hustle inspire us every single day. You have shown us what it means to lead with vision, commitment, and heart. We are so proud and thankful for all you do—for your staff, your businesses, and your community.

With admiration and gratitude,

We Love You

Edible Arrangements · Harold's Chicken & Ribs · Smallcakes



Congratulations Karla

Your life is rooted in your belief that true strength is found in serving others.

“Service to All Mankind”, she reminds us that when we extend a helping hand ~ without expectation of reward ~ we not only strengthen others but also renew our own spirit.

Each act of kindness builds resilience, fuels hope, and creates space for others to discover the strength within themselves.

Karla's journey is a shining example of how service can transform lives and inspire us all to rise higher.

*Love,
Dorothy's Crew
Tellis, Lolita & Chenelle*



Congratulations!

BETTY MAGNESS

**ON BEING A RECIPIENT OF THE
CRESCENT MOON AWARD**



**RAINBOW PUSH COALITION
REV. JESSE L. JACKSON, SR. FOUNDER
YUSEF JACKSON COO & STAFF**





Congratulations!



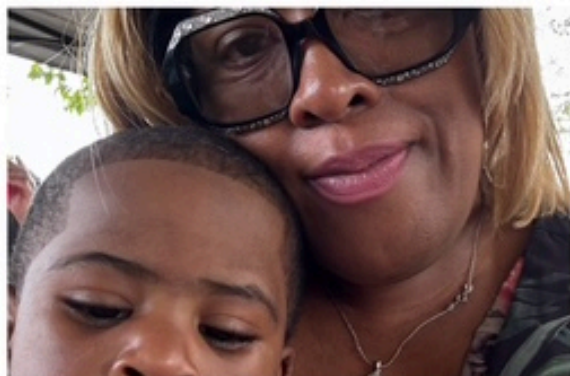
Karyn Quick

18TH ILLINOIS STATE DIRECTOR

on being the recipient of the

Crescent Moon Award.

From your Sorors, Friends, and Youth of the state of Illinois.



Congratulations to our beautiful mother and grandmother on being honored by Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. at the Annual Carnation Ball as a Crescent Moon Awardee!

Your love, wisdom, and unwavering support have guided and inspired us

every step of the way. We are so proud of you and all that you continue to accomplish.

Mom, we love and adore you! This special honor is so well-deserved — your light shines bright in all that you do.

With love,
**Your Family — and your first
grandson, Bookie Boo, who loves
you dearly! 💙🌙🌸**





CONGRATULATIONS

to the 2025 Crescent Moon Award Recipient

Officer Jessica Scott

In the area of COMMUNITY POLICING

From

Desi Smith, ABR, RENE, CNE, Designated Sponsoring Broker/Owner



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*Celeste and Christina Wheeler
Extend Congratulations to
Debby Douglas
on receiving the 2025
Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity
Crescent Moon Award*



Sandra Johnson has been a guiding light in the world of education, dedicating her career to shaping young minds and inspiring generations of students. As a teacher in the K-12 system, she has consistently demonstrated not only an exceptional mastery of her subject matter but also an unwavering commitment to the personal growth and success of each child who entered her classroom. Her teaching was never limited to textbooks or lesson plans; Sandra brought learning to life through creativity, patience, and a genuine passion for education.



Throughout her years of service, Sandra cultivated an environment where students felt seen, valued, and encouraged to reach their fullest potential. She possessed the rare ability to adapt her teaching to meet the diverse needs of her students, ensuring that every

learner—whether struggling or excelling—had the opportunity to thrive. Her classroom was a place where curiosity was nurtured, critical thinking was celebrated, and lifelong learning took root. Many of her students have gone on to achieve remarkable accomplishments, often attributing their success to the confidence and foundation Sandra instilled in them.

Sandra's influence extended well beyond the classroom. She was a mentor to younger teachers, generously sharing her wisdom, strategies, and unwavering positivity. She understood that teaching was both an art and a calling, and she modeled the highest standards of professionalism and compassion. Her colleagues remember her not only as a skilled educator but also as a loyal friend and a trusted collaborator.

The legacy Sandra leaves behind is one of excellence, integrity, and heartfelt dedication. She touched countless lives, and her impact will continue to echo through the stories, achievements, and dreams of her students. Sandra Johnson's name will forever be associated with the kind of teacher who changes lives—not just for a year, but for a lifetime.

With love and admiration from Kathy McCoy, Lisa Gonzalez, April Riley and Juanita Martin.

Written by LaT'ya Johnson



■ Congratulations, Karla Harris Miller! ■

I am overjoyed to celebrate you, my cousin, sister, friend, and Soror. This honor is so well deserved, and I could not be more proud. Your tireless work, generous spirit, and unwavering love for family, business, and community inspire me every single day.

Karla, your strength and compassion shine brightly, and I am truly blessed to stand beside you on this special night of recognition.

With all my love, admiration, and pride,
Angela Coley Rogers

Fredi

Congratulations!

You are an amazing person with many accomplishments and achievements.

Your commitment, hard work, and dedication shine.

The Crescent Moon Award is well deserved!

We are happy for you, and we love you!

Joy, Anthony and AJ



Congratulations Karla!

Congratulations to my remarkable cousin Karla on receiving the Upsilon Sigma Chapter's Crescent Moon Award! You know how to make it happen—whether it's designing fruit bouquets or flying the friendly skies. Your dedication and commitment as an entrepreneur for over 20 years continue to inspire us all. I am so proud of you!

With love and joy,

**Las Vegas aka Lola
KEEP SHINING BRIGHT!**



Congratulations Karla!

To my beautiful and amazing niece Karla. Congratulations on your well-deserved recognition in your entrepreneurial businesses. I am so proud of you! My heart is bubbling over with joy and happiness as I celebrate your success.

**With love forever.
Aunt Celestine Rogers**

Dr. Verletta Saxon & Dr. K. Mann
Recipients of the Crescent Moon Award
Presented by Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.

We proudly celebrate Dr. Verletta Saxon and Dr. K. Mann for their well-deserved recognition as recipients of the prestigious Crescent Moon Award. This honor highlights their tireless commitment, unwavering leadership, and heartfelt dedication to the welfare of children.

Through their vision, advocacy, and hard work, they have built brighter futures, strengthened families, and championed the cause of child welfare with passion and purpose. Their efforts remind us all that authentic leadership is not only measured by achievement but also by the lives uplifted along the way.

Congratulations on this remarkable honor! Your impact continues to inspire and transform communities for generations to come.

Love your Parents, Family, and Loved Ones



Congratulations to Fredi Taylor on your election as President of the Zeta Zeta Chapter , Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Incorporated.

We, your NuSource family honor you for your dedication to service.

Keep up the good fight, for we know with god all things are possible.

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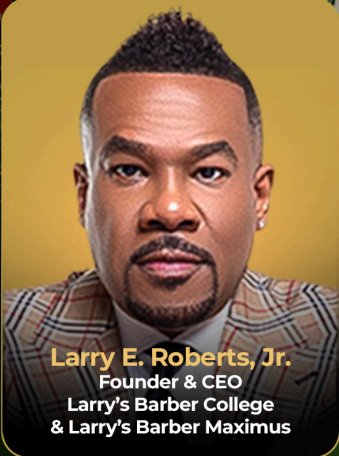
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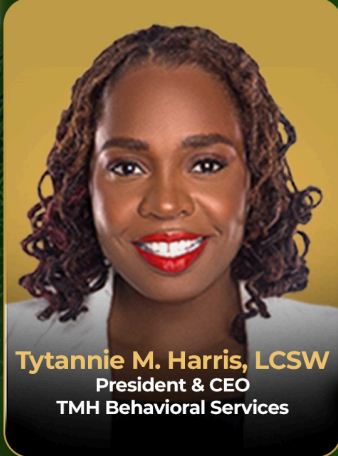
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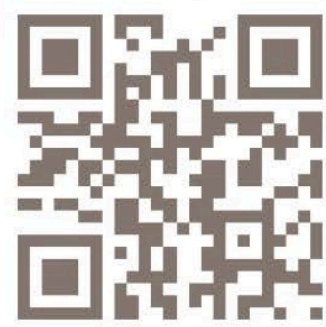
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We applaud past and present honorees for their
outstanding commitment to the civic and legal community.

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