

CELEBRATING SOME OF THE MOST **INFLUENTIAL AND COURAGEOUS**
WOMEN IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY



POWERFUL WOMEN OF NJ

INSIDERNJ.COM

I am honored to share my annual list celebrating some of the most **powerful and courageous women** in the State of New Jersey.



In compiling this list of extraordinary women, I was inspired by Vice President Kamala Harris' words: *"The light of America's promise will always burn bright as long as we never give up, and as long as we keep fighting."* These remarkable women, serving in government, as corporate executives, non-profit leaders, and community champions, embody that promise. While many of these women have been recognized year after year, I continue to meet new trailblazers whose talent

and unwavering commitment to improving our communities fill me with confidence that America's promise will continue to shine brightly. This list, of course, is not exhaustive of all the talented women who call New Jersey home.

For more than a decade, I've had the privilege of serving in the New Jersey Legislature and working alongside incredible women leaders. Among them is Senator Emeritus Loretta Weinberg,

who entrusted me with the honor of continuing the tradition of the Power List. It brings me profound joy to celebrate women who work tirelessly each day because the work must get done.



This year's list begins with heartfelt gratitude to Vice President Kamala Harris, who secured the national Democratic nomination for President of the United States. I had the privilege of serving as an At-Large Delegate at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago this past August. While the atmosphere was celebratory, it was also marked by the somber news of my Congressman, William J. Pascrell, Jr., reaching the twilight of his extraordinary life and service. That evening, the DNC paid tribute to him on the big stage, offering a compassionate moment of remembrance. Vice President Harris and the convention organizers ensured his legacy was honored.

For the first time in history, New Jersey boasts a strong delegation of women

in Congress. With the passing of Congressman Donald Payne, Jr., the District 10 seat was filled by former Newark Council President LaMonica McIver, the first woman ever to hold that seat. Additionally, former District 35 Senator Nellie Pou secured the nomination and won the election to succeed Congressman Pascrell. These two outstanding leaders now join Congresswomen Bonnie Watson Coleman and Mikie Sherrill in representing New Jersey in Washington, D.C.

This year also saw the loss of a towering figure in New Jersey's political landscape. Council President Emeritus Mildred C. Crump ascended to join the ancestors. Her compassion, authenticity, and unwavering commitment to Newark and the state of New Jersey will never be forgotten. Council President Crump's distinguished service empowered pivotal policy changes and inspired countless others.

To all the women serving in elected and appointed positions: thank you for your dedication. Let us continue to draw strength from Amanda Gorman's powerful reminder in "The Hill We Climb": "The hill we climb, if only we dare, is steep but we are not afraid."

With that, I proudly present this year's Power List, a celebration of the women of New Jersey who are climbing higher every day.

She believed she could, **and indeed she did.**



Vice President Kamala Harris should be immensely proud of her campaign to become the 47th President of the United States. Though the hill was steep and the climb arduous, Vice President Harris waged a formidable and competitive race.

With just over 100 days since President Joseph Biden's announcement that he would not seek re-election as the Democratic nominee, it was a sprint to the finish line. Thank you, President Biden, for your steadfast service and

leadership in guiding our nation through a global pandemic, facilitating the return to work, and fostering economic stability across so many states, including New Jersey. Thank you, too, for unequivocally lending your voice to support Vice President Harris as the Democratic nominee to succeed you.

To Vice President Harris, we extend our deepest gratitude for your distinguished career in public service and your courage to run a credible and inspiring campaign for the highest office in

the land. Your campaign engaged thousands of new voters, ignited a generation of future women leaders to participate at every level, and set a record for fund-raising.

The energy of your national campaign was electrifying. Stadiums were filled to capacity, and local events thrived with spirited conversations about the fight for democracy, women's rights, and the pursuit of fairness for all. You carried forward the torch lit by former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, shattering more glass ceilings that she left cracked in her historic 2016 run for the presidency.

On Tuesday, November 5, I was energized and optimistic, ready to witness Herstory: the making of the first woman President of the United States. But the morning of Wednesday, November 6, was devastating. It was heartbreaking to wake up to the realization that a candidate whose campaign polarized communities and espoused hate had gained the lead. A candidate facing multiple indictments, something that would bar an individual from holding state or local office in New Jersey, had won both the popular and Electoral College votes.

This outcome felt unfathomable. Once again, I found myself grieving the loss of what could have been. I cycled through the stages of grief: denial that this could possibly be true, especially knowing that my beloved Passaic County had voted

majority Republican in this presidential race; depression at the realization that even Vice President Harris' exceptional public service and integrity, with zero indictments, were not enough to secure a victory; and finally, acceptance. Acceptance that the narrow margin of loss, just 2%, leaves space for continued efforts to engage, organize, and serve.

This moment of reckoning reinforces the need to galvanize our communities and remain committed to amplifying the voices of over 9 million New Jersey residents. With our Congressional and Senatorial delegation, we must continue the work of advocating for their needs at the federal level.

Thank you, Vice President Kamala Harris, for your courage, resilience, and service. Without a doubt, you have inspired a new generation of leaders to fight for the advancement of humanity with dignity and respect. And without question, you have inspired me. Your journey has strengthened my resolve to serve, and I am honored to represent our communities as we continue the fight for equity, justice, and progress.



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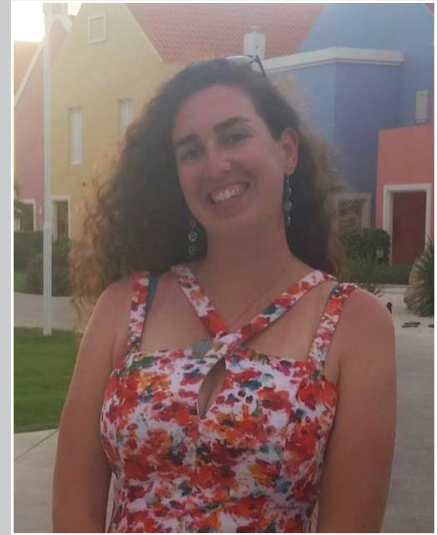
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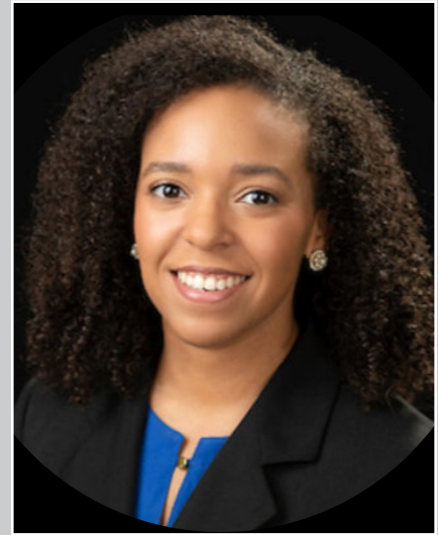
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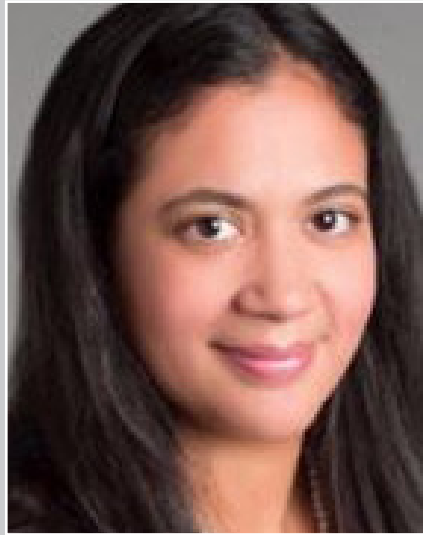


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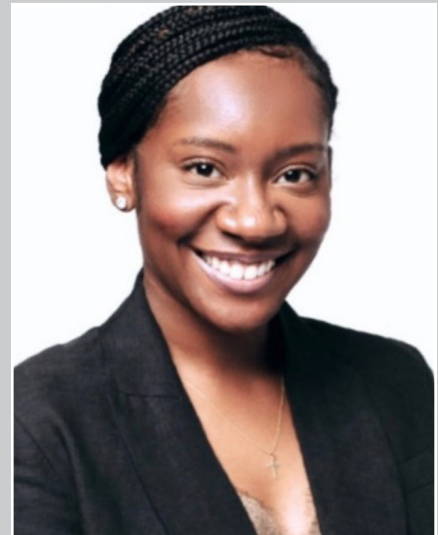
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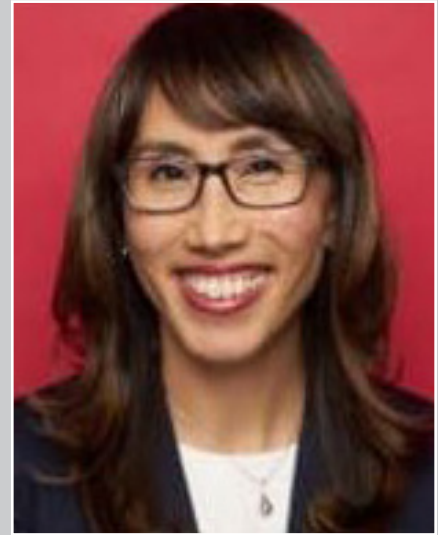
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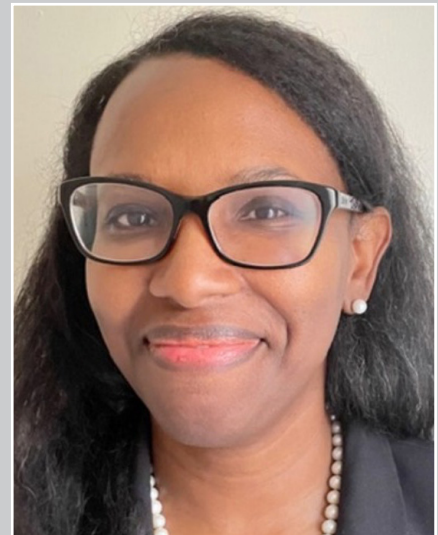
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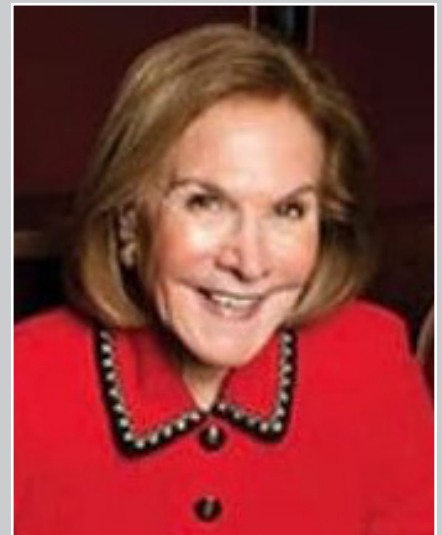
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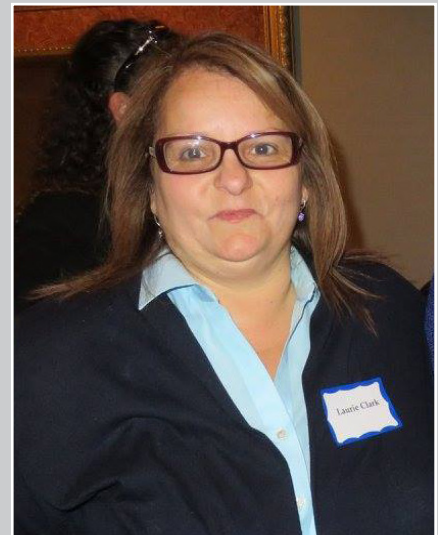
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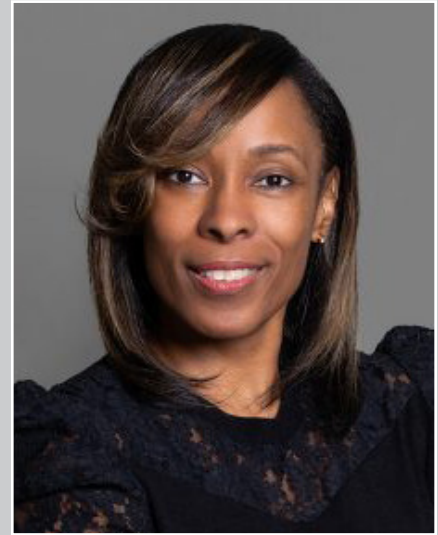
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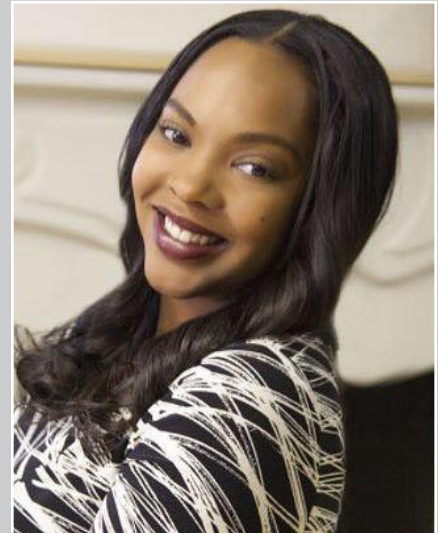
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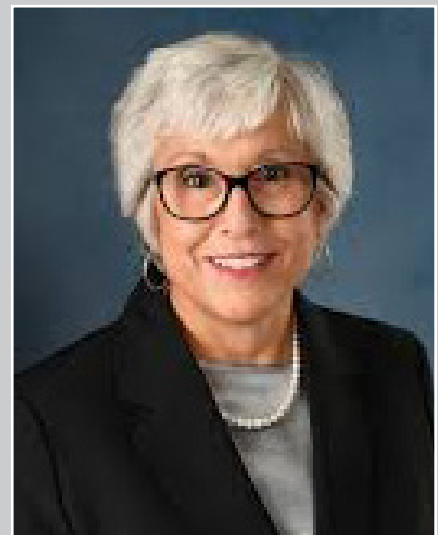
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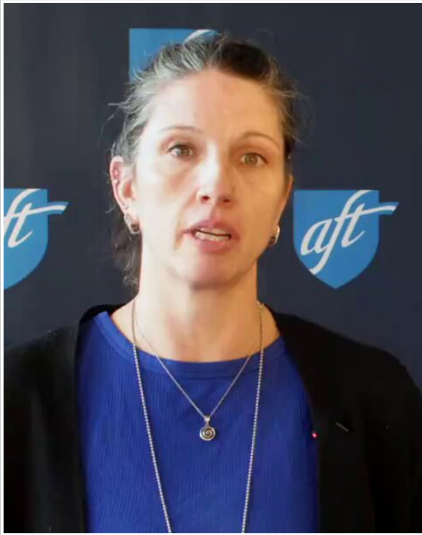


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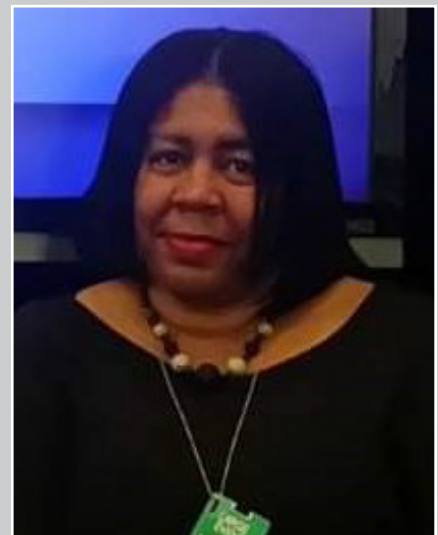
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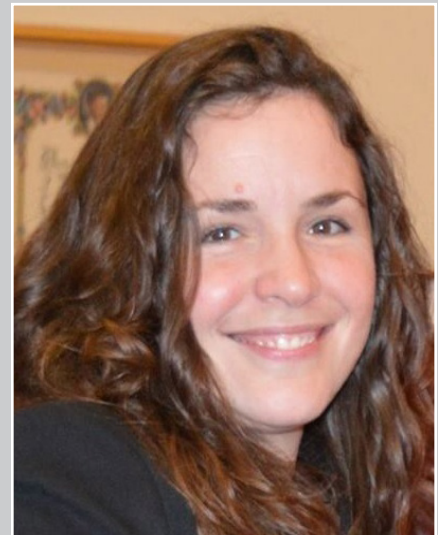
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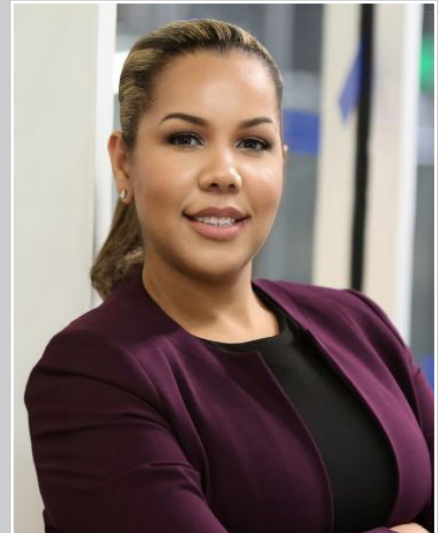
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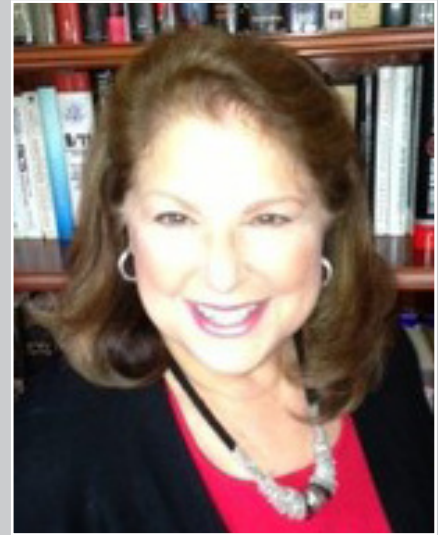
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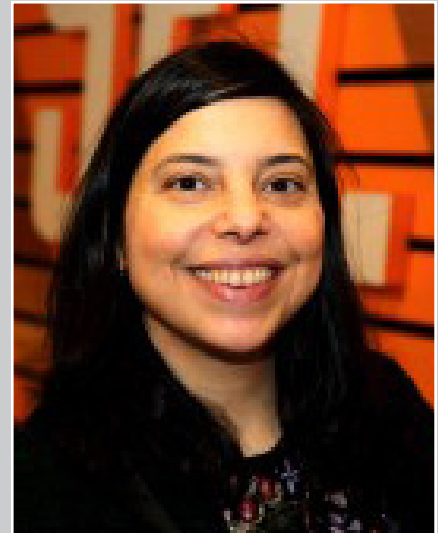
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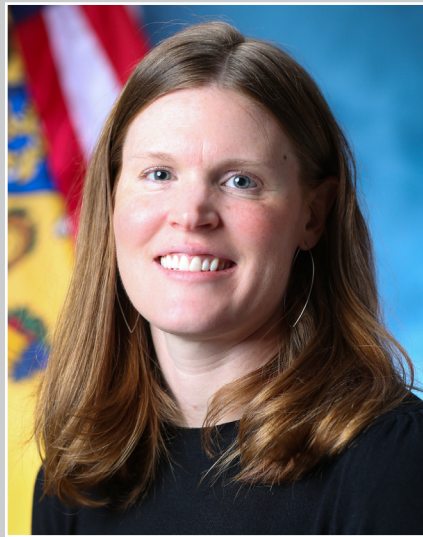


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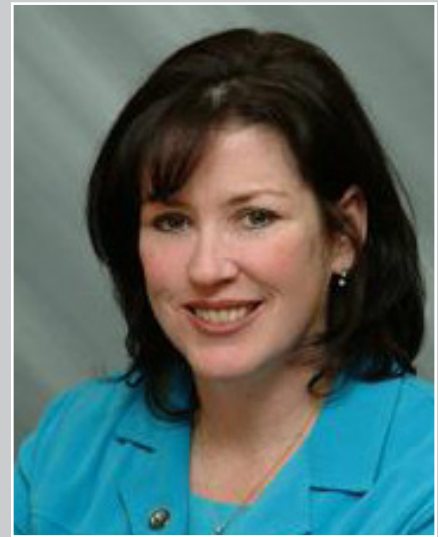
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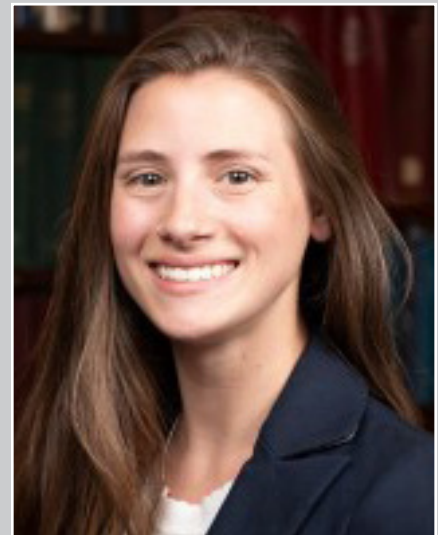
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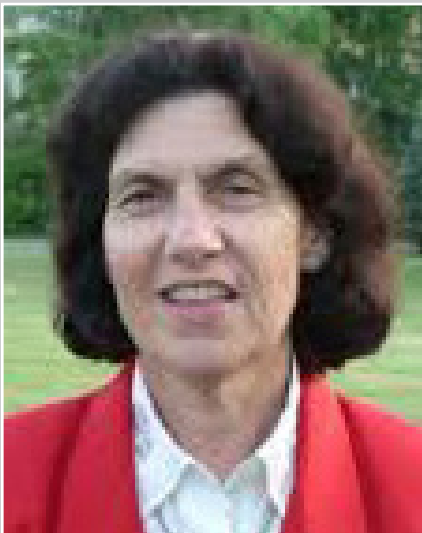
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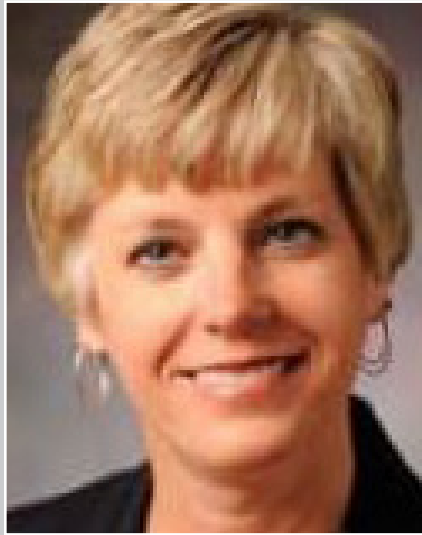


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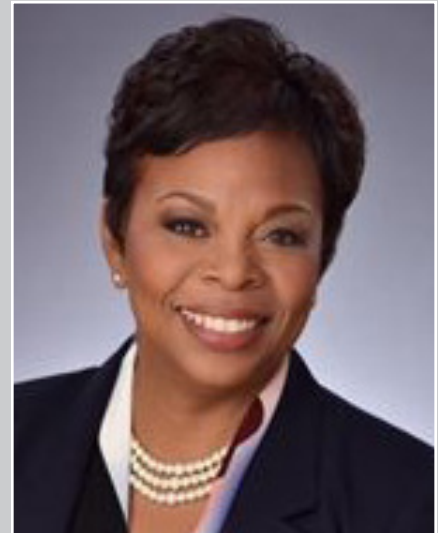
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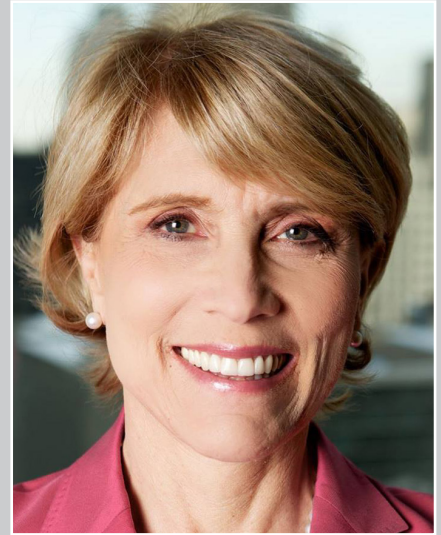
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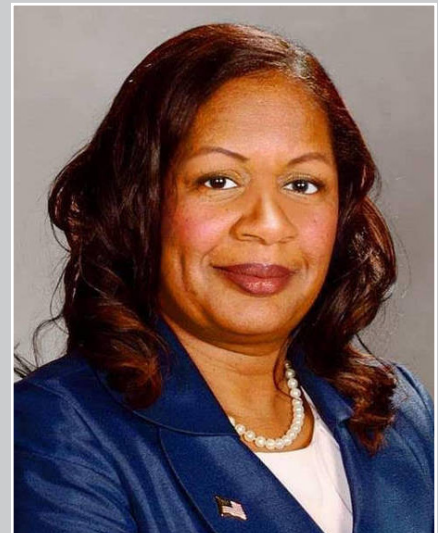
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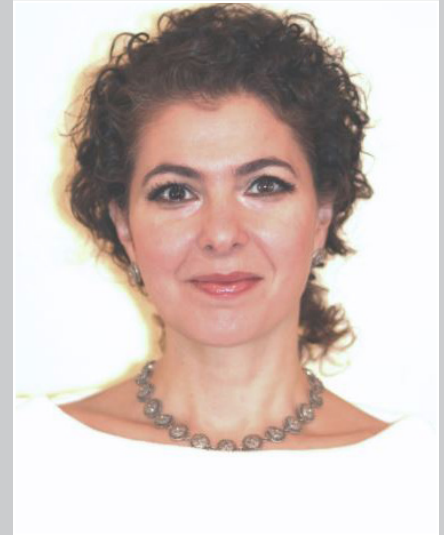
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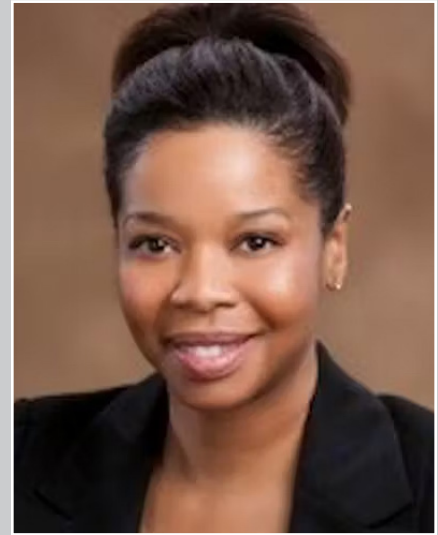
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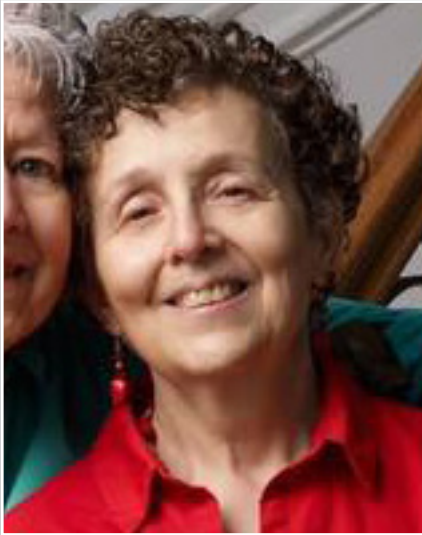


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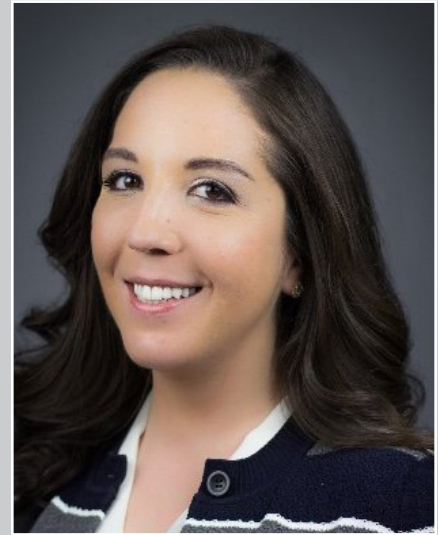
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