

Education

University of Texas, Austin

Master's of Public Affairs
LBJ School of Public Affairs
Policy Concentration: Community and Economic Development
Research Project: "Labor Market and Post Secondary
Pattern of Central Texas Students"

The Johns Hopkins University

Bachelor of Arts
Major: International Affairs, African Policy
Minor: Comparative American Cultures

University of Ghana

African Politics and International Affairs

Experience

Director of Advocacy, The Sentencing Project – Washington, DC (June 2012)

- Manage campaign efforts on sentencing reform, voting rights, reentry, and racial disparity;
- Develop state level advocacy and communication strategies on criminal justice reform policy; and
- Supervise advocacy staff in the development of federal and state advocacy strategies.

State Advocacy Coordinator, The Sentencing Project – Washington, DC (May 2009 – June 2012)

- Coordinates state level communication and legislative campaigns on criminal justice policy;
- Manages state and local advocacy efforts on sentencing reform, voting rights, reentry and racial disparity; and
- Works with state advocates at the state and local level in planning their advocacy strategies to advance reforms.

Policy Director, Texans Together – Houston, Texas (July 2008 – May 2009)

- Developed and coordinated issue advocacy campaigns;
- Facilitated community members to build consensus and take action on identified concerns;
- Researched and developed policy solutions regarding various issues that include public education and improving public safety.

Criminal Justice Researcher – Houston, Texas (March 2007 – May 2009)

- Conduct research regarding private prison capacity in the state of Texas;
- Generate research and articles that analyze and assess criminal justice reform efforts in Texas;
- Researched alternatives to arrest and incarceration in Houston area as a solution to jail overcrowding.
- Collaborations: Capitol City Solutions, Texas Prison Bid'ness/Justice Strategies

Director, Prison and Jail Accountability Project – Austin, Texas (October 2005 – June 2007)

- Monitored conditions of prisons and jails throughout Texas;
- Develop legislative solutions concerning Texas including preventing sexual assault and access to correctional health care;
- Passed three measures through the Texas Legislature; 2 measures achieved final passage;
- Provided testimony before state policymakers and stakeholders;
- Facilitated coalition meetings and recruited/trained volunteers and organized/trained advocates on criminal justice efforts;
- Conducted policy research and analysis and recruited volunteers; and
- Generated fundraising revenue for project sustainability.

Field Coordinator, Appleseed Foundation – Austin, Texas (May 2004- October 2005)

- Conducted 10-year analysis of field operations and Managed and directed logistics for 6 offices;
- Primary contact for 18 regional offices and developed strategic plans for management of 18 regional offices;
- Conducted and provided technical and management assistance for 18 offices; and

Development Coordinator, National Women's Political Caucus - Washington, D.C. (2002-2003)

- Managed and directed logistics for 2003 Biennial National Convention;
- Primary contact for convention sponsors, vendors, and participants;
- Coordinated special event luncheons and dinners;
- Developed new fundraising ideas and programs to generate charitable revenue; and
- Developed marketing materials for organization and convention programs.

Skills and Activities

Training: State Legislative Tracking; Quantitative Decision Methods; Decision Analysis; Cost Benefit Analysis; Program Development/Management; Project Management/Scheduling; Major Gift Fundraising; and Donor Prospect Research

Service: Institute for the Black World, Board Member; Grassroots Leadership, Board Member; Society of Black Alumni, Johns Hopkins University; JHU National Alumni Schools Committee, Hopkins Interviewer; Former ACLU of Houston, Board Member; Former National Women's Political Caucus, Board Member; Former NARAL Pro-Choice Texas, Board Member; Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Leadership Network, Founding Member; and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. – Xi Tau (JHU), President

Awards: 2014 *Essence Magazine* New Civil Rights Leader; Center for American Progress Leadership Fellow; University of Texas AST Grant; CBCF Spouse Merit Award; Johns Hopkins University Dean's List; Hopkins Award for Academic Excellence; and Greek Woman of the Year