



**2020 MBLA ANNUAL MEETING
CANDIDATES FOR OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 2020-2021 MBLA PROGRAM YEAR**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE 2020 MBLA ANNUAL MEETING AND A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MBLA BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL BE HELD SIMULTANEOUSLY ON TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2020, AT 6:00PM AT THE PRINCIPAL OFFICE OF THE CORPORATION AND BY ZOOM.

THE PURPOSE OF THE ANNUAL MEETING IS TO ELECT THE OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR THE 2020-2021, THE NOMINEES FOR WHICH ARE IDENTIFIED BELOW.

UNDER COVID-19 ORDER 13, ISSUED BY GOVERNOR CHARLES D. BAKER, GATHERINGS OF MORE THAN 10 PEOPLE ARE PROHIBITED THROUGHOUT THE COMMONWEALTH. THEREFORE, THE ABILITY TO HAVE IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE AT THE ANNUAL MEETING IS EXTREMELY LIMITED. **MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO VOTE BY PROXY INSTEAD.** PROXY VOTES WILL BE ACCEPTED THROUGH APRIL 21, 2020 AT 5:00 P.M.

ALL MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS ARE ALSO ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE REMOTELY THROUGH ZOOM. FOR SECURITY PURPOSES, PLEASE RSVP TO PRESIDENTELECT@MABLACKLAWYERS.ORG TO RECEIVE THE ZOOM LINK. ALTHOUGH ZOOM WILL ALLOW ATTENDEES TO SEE AND HEAR EACH OTHER, MEMBERS WILL **NOT** BE ABLE TO VOTE THROUGH ZOOM.

THE FOLLOWING CANDIDATES ARE SEEKING ELECTION TO SERVE AS OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR THE 2020-2021 PROGRAM YEAR:

OFFICER CANDIDATES



ASHA WHITE - CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT ELECT

BIOGRAPHY:

Asha White is the Deputy Chief of the Criminal Bureau of the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office and former criminal defense attorney in Massachusetts. He attended Northeastern University School of Law (NUSL) and graduated in 2004. While at NUSL, he participated in the school's criminal advocacy clinic where, as a third year law student, he represented indigent defendants in criminal cases at the Roxbury district court. In addition, he was a participant in the Frederick Douglass Moot Court competition, the Northeast regions best brief, national third place, and national best brief. After graduating from NUSL in 2004, he began his career in the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office where he served as an assistant district attorney from 2004-2008. After leaving the DA's office in 2008, Attorney White worked at the City of Boston Law Department as an Assistant Corporation Counsel. Mr. White managed his own private practice before becoming an Assistant Clerk Magistrate at the Boston Municipal Court – Dorchester Division.

CANDIDATE STATEMENT:

I wish to be appointed as president elect. My entire career has been based in public service. Representing the poorest and most vulnerable citizens will always be my first priority. However, serving as a member of MBLA allows me to help affect public policy. A leadership position with MBLA allows me to address these problems through large scale community education and social action. I look forward to the opportunity to support the many community activists and organizations addressing these issues on a daily basis.

Any interested lawyer should join the MBLA because it is at the forefront of helping to shape social thought and opinion on emerging social justice issues. Through education, community service and the support of black law students and lawyers, this organization has a long tradition of bettering the larger community. We are in a time where issues of social, political and economic justice dominate our headlines and culture. Becoming a member allows us to have a voice in the on-going struggle for the law to help facilitate the basic human dignity of all.



D'ANDRE FERNANDEZ – CANDIDATE FOR EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

BIOGRAPHY:

D'Andre Fernandez is currently an Assistant Attorney General for the Massachusetts Office of the Attorney General in the Criminal Bureau in the Enterprise, Major, & Cyber Crime Division. While acting as an AAG, Mr. Fernandez served in the Civil Rights Division in the Public Protection and Advocacy Bureau where he enforced state and federal civil rights laws in Superior Court, investigated and mediated complaints from the general public and advocacy groups. As an AAG in the Civil Rights Division, Mr. Fernandez also helped develop and implement the AGO's Criminal Records Initiative which included, a new webpage, a new, specialized complaint form, a "Know Your Rights" guide, outreach, and investigation of complaints. Mr. Fernandez lead an investigation into employers across the state who were in violation of Massachusetts various CORI laws which resulted in the AGO's first enforcement action regarding the "Ban the Box" statute.

Before joining the Attorney General's Office, Mr. Fernandez was a staff attorney at the Volunteer Lawyers Project of the Boston Bar Association, supervising Pro Se Litigant Clinics and representing individuals in divorce, guardianship, child support, alimony, custody, parenting time and equity matters. Prior to that, Mr. Fernandez was a staff attorney in the Public Defender Division of the Committee for Public Counsel Service in Norfolk County, where he represented indigent clients in all aspects of criminal cases including arraignments, dispositions, trials, probation surrender hearings and Section 35 commitment proceedings.

Mr. Fernandez has served as the youngest Worshipful Master in the history of Mt. Zion Lodge, 15 of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons, Jurisdiction of Massachusetts. Prince Hall Masonry is a fraternal organization and the oldest African American organization in the Country. A Boston native and resident, Mr. Fernandez is a

graduate of Boston College Law School (2010) and Howard University (2006, magna cum laude). Currently, Mr. Fernandez serves as a Director and Co-Chair of the Student Support Committee for the Massachusetts Black Lawyers Association, roles he has held for five years.

Lastly, Mr. Fernandez received the “2018 GK25 Who Is Who” Award and was chosen as one of the 25 Most Influential Millennials of Color in Boston by Colette Phillips Communications, Inc. (CPC) and Get Konekcted! In addition, Mr. Fernandez, in 2019, was chosen as an honoree at the annual “Excellence in the Law” event, presented by Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly for being an “Up and Coming Lawyer.”



COURTNEY M. PERSON – CANDIDATE FOR SECRETARY

BIOGRAPHY:

Courtney is an associate in the Boston office of Morrison Mahoney. She practices in the area of hospital and medical malpractice defense and represents hospitals, physicians, nurses, and other health care professionals in medical malpractice claims and Board disciplinary matters.

While in law school, Courtney was awarded two prestigious scholarships: the Massachusetts Black Lawyers Association (MBLA) Honorable Reginald Lindsay Public Service Award and the Massachusetts Black Women Attorneys Foundation (MBWA) Blanche E. Braxton Bar Scholarship, awarded to law students of color who have demonstrated outstanding academic excellence, a commitment to public service, and a dedication to the advancement of minoritized people through the legal process.

Prior to joining the firm as an attorney, Courtney worked at Morrison Mahoney part-time as a law clerk while in law school. She also held an internship at the Attorney General’s Office in the Policy and Government Division; a judicial intern for Associate Justice Kimberly Budd of the Supreme Judicial Clerk of the Commonwealth; and an internship in the civil litigation division of the U.S. Attorney’s Office under the supervision of USAA Michael Sady.

CANDIDATE STATEMENT:

I aspire to become the Secretary of the Massachusetts Black Lawyers Association because I have personally experienced the impact that this organization has on the legal community. I originally moved from South Carolina to Massachusetts in 2015. I began my legal journey with absolutely no connections in the legal field. After a few months of networking, I met a couple of members of the MBLA. These connections turned into mentorships and sponsorships, which in turn provided me with opportunities in employment, leadership, and community engagement. Because of the support and guidance from these relationships, I graduated with honors, received The Honorable Justice Reginald Lindsay Public Service Award, and was the inaugural recipient of The Blanche E. Braxton Scholarship Award.

In 2017, I was a member of MBLA's Programs and Development Committee. I helped conduct informational forums, notably the "Managing Your Own Career Symposium." I was tasked with contacting the panelists, coordinating the schedule, and any/all tasks needed to help the forums run smoothly. My experiences have honed my organizational skills, perfected my attention to detail, and given me a unique perspective on what younger lawyers need. These are qualities that I will bring to my role as Secretary.



CHERINA D. WRIGHT – CANDIDATE FOR TREASURER (INCUMBENT)

BIOGRAPHY:

Cherina D. Wright, Esq. is a native of Boston, Massachusetts. Attorney Wright is a proud alum of Hampton University, where she received her B.A. In 2017, she received her J.D. and M.B.A. from Suffolk University in Boston, MA. Currently serving as the Director of Student Engagement and Inclusion at Suffolk University Law School, she provides the strategic direction for the law school’s student diversity and inclusion efforts.

These efforts include expanding access and opportunity to minority and underrepresented students looking to attend law school. In 2019, Cherina was recognized as one of the 50 most influential attorneys of color in Boston by GetKonekcted! Outside of the office, Cherina is an active member of the community. She is the current Treasurer of the Massachusetts Black Lawyers Association; and is also the President of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Chi Eta Zeta Chapter of Cambridge, MA.

CANDIDATE STATEMENT:

If elected this will be my third year as MBLA Treasurer. The treasurer's responsibilities are immense, continuing in this role will afford me the opportunity to make systematic changes to the MBLA treasury processes. These changes will allow the treasury to work more effectively and efficiently.

The greatest value of being a MBLA member is knowing you are a part of a local and global community for black lawyers working to support one another professionally while also providing services to communities of color.

DIRECTOR CANDIDATES: (9 Positions Available)



AVANA A. ANDERSON (INCUMBENT)

BIOGRAPHY:

Avana A. Anderson is a trial attorney at Peabody & Arnold LLP where she concentrates her practice in the areas of professional liability, insurance coverage litigation and business litigation. She frequently represents professionals and business owners against allegations of negligence, breach of fiduciary duty and breach of contract. Ms. Anderson has obtained favorable judgments in multiple trials at the state court level and has also successfully argued before the Massachusetts Appeals Court.

In addition to her practice at Peabody & Arnold LLP, Ms. Anderson serves as a member of the Anti-Defamation League's Associate Board and as a pro bono attorney for the Women's Bar Foundation's Family Law Project representing survivors of domestic violence in various family law matters. Ms. Anderson also provides support to domestic violence survivors through her service as an "Innbassador" for Pine Street Inn where she hosts fitness-based fundraising events and monthly presentations for the sheltered guests discussing domestic violence, the various types of abuse and what the court system can do to help. Most recently, Ms. Anderson was recognized by Get Konekcted! as one of Boston's Most Influential Millennials of Color and she will be honored this July as one of Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly's 2020 Up & Coming Lawyers.

CANDIDATE STATEMENT:

My name is Avana Anderson and this statement is to formally announce my intention to run for, and serve as, an At-Large Director for the Massachusetts Black Lawyers Association for the 2020-2021 programming year.

I have served as an At-Large Director and Chair of the Membership Development Committee for the past three years. In this role, I help the organization continue to align with its mission of empowering its members and providing access, direction and guidance to lawyers as they navigate the legal market. In addition to planning and executing a number of events, including the Annual Fall Reception, I've created a number of programs to support our membership including the Dues Assistance Program, the Attorney Referral Service Program and the Corporate Membership Program. This year, I am looking to further streamline the Attorney Referral Program and make it more accessible to those seeking legal advice. I also plan to identify creative ways to fundraise for the Massachusetts Black Lawyers Association. If elected, I will continue to run the Dues Assistance Program and the Attorney Referral Service Program, plan and execute the 2020 Fall Reception and continue to support our law school student and attorney members.



TIFFANIE C. ELLIS-NILES

BIOGRAPHY:

I am a founding partner of Lyles and Niles, LLP, a general practice Law Firm on the South Shore of Massachusetts. I focus my practice on bankruptcy, domestic relations and landlord/tenant disputes. I have extensive experience representing clients in family law, real estate transactions, estate planning, small claims and contract matters. I am also certified with the Committee of Public Counsel Family and Children division and represent children and parents involved with the Department of Children and Families.

CANDIDATE STATEMENT:

My name is Tiffanie C. Ellis-Niles and I served as a at large director of the Massachusetts Black Lawyers Association from 2017 to 2018. I stepped down from the board due to personal obligations. I am looking to rejoin the board as a at large director to continue to support the organizations mission and act as an ambassador to the organization and the legal community at large. As a past president of the Massachusetts Black Women Attorneys, I believe I can also be an asset to the board by fostering and creating collaborations with other bar associations.

If elected, my goal for the 2020/2021 program year would be to support law students navigating the legal community by ensuring they are connected with mentors and that they have access to information and opportunities to help support them in

their careers upon graduation. I feel that it is important as an individual as well as an organization to be a leader in our legal community to ensure members have access to opportunities to excel in their respective areas of interest.



ERON HACKSAW (INCUMBENT)

BIOGRAPHY:

Eron Hackshaw is currently the Assistant Director for Government and Public Interest Careers at Boston University School of Law. As a former Transactional Finance Attorney, Eron Hackshaw is developing his practice in representing first and second lien senior lenders, mezzanine investors, equity sponsors, and borrowers in a broad variety of secured and unsecured senior debt and mezzanine financing arrangements. His practice is primarily focused on cash flow and asset-based financings, acquisition and other leveraged financings, cross-border financings, first lien, second lien and mezzanine financings, recapitalizations, and restructurings. Mr. Hackshaw is also a trained and certified Mediator with the Harvard Law School Mediation Program serving as a Community Mediator in the Roxbury Division, Boston Municipal Court. Mr. Hackshaw graduated from Howard University School of Law in 2009. During his final year at Howard, Mr. Hackshaw participated in the HUSL Alternative Dispute Resolution Clinic and completed a yearlong placement at the Washington D.C. Field Office of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC WFO) where he served as student observer and co-mediator in a number of employment discrimination disputes. Eron also served as the President of the Association of Caribbean Law Students and was an active member of the HUSL law student community. Prior to attending law school Mr. Hackshaw graduated Suma Cum Laude from Morgan State University with a BA in Philosophy, where he served as President of Philosophy Club, Co-Founder and Editor of Hateta – An Undergraduate Journal of Philosophy, and as University Advocate on the University's Judicial Board. Mr. Hackshaw has been an active member of the MBLA. He has previously served on several committees, including the Programs Committee and the 2014 Gala Committee. Mr. Hackshaw's community service also includes serving on the board of Cambridge Symphony Orchestra and chairing the Board Governance Committee.

CANDIDATE STATEMENT:

The MBLA has been very important to me personally and professionally. I have made many friends and have had several opportunities to serve as a result of my membership and leadership in the MBLA. It has helped to grow my professional network through the mixers and networking events and has helped me to focus on the things that I need to do to advance my career. If elected I would like to work on at least two objectives. First is to revive the external affairs (Marketing and Communications) aspect of the organization. So much of what we do and what our members do needs to be communicated to our members and the wider legal community. Second I would like to work with the Student support community to provide opportunities for the Black Law Students in the commonwealth of Massachusetts.

I have served on the Gala Committee, as Chair of Communications and Marketing/External Affairs and as Director At-Large. I have also worked on the Membership Committee, the Scholarship Awards Committee and several other committees. I know the ins and outs of the organization and am prepared to contribute and pass on that knowledge to others. I think that Black attorneys and law students have several needs, mentoring and support being one of them. I think that they also need to have their accomplishments highlighted and promoted so that they get the recognition they deserve. I think that through networking events that mentoring relationship can develop organically between attorneys. We can also engage in an official mentoring program to foster these relationships. Secondly through the use of or social media and other communications platforms we can promote the accomplishments of our members.



CHARLES KOECH

BIOGRAPHY:

Attorney Charles Koech currently works at State Street as Vice President and Counsel drafting and negotiating corporate agreements. He previously worked at the Middlesex District Attorney's Office as a Prosecutor. Mr. Koech is a 2014 graduate of Suffolk University Law School with a Concentration in Business Law and Financial Services. Mr. Koech is a lifelong resident of Boston and an avid reader and sports fan (including but not limited to basketball and football).

CANDIDATE STATEMENT:

I am a first generation lawyer from the inner city of Boston, and from the inception of my legal career the MBLA has provided guidance and support. The programing aimed to help develop and guide diverse attorneys greatly impacted me by providing me confidence and a network. Events such as the fall reception introduced me to mentors and like minded attorneys. These relationships provided me opportunities and a safe haven to express my experiences.

The MBLA also gave me hope and faith by celebrating successful African American attorneys. I did not know personally more than one successful African American attorney until law school. The MBLA made meeting successful African American attorneys normal. The Galas are also inspirational and have always lifted my spirits and provided me hope to be a contributing member to a thriving community.

My immediate goal would be to increase community engagement. The objectives would include meeting with all different levels of black attorneys from new students to thriving attorneys, and discuss what specifically can we do to increase engagement and to ensure that they contribute. We must never forget that we are the community and if we work together we can build it even stronger. We cannot take out progress for granted and forget important organizations such as the MBLA.

I have consistently attended MBLA events and I am a dues paying member. I have strong connections with different members of the MBLA community, and I value and cultivate those relationships. I am seeking to be a contributing At-Large director who wants to bolster community engagement.

The most pressing needs are employment, and employment that will allow them to live in a very expensive city. If we bolster engagement from the community, we can hopefully build a large network, where we can share resources, such as job opportunities.

Another pressing need is teaching professional development, and how to continue to become a lawyer who can transition from different roles. And for students how to continue building your brand as you embark on a long journey.



MICHAEL KIPPINS (INCUMBENT)

BIOGRAPHY:

Michael Kippins is a litigation associate at Prince Lobel Tye LLP, where his practice focuses on complex commercial and business litigation, including disputes with regard to contracts, employment, real estate, and insurance. Prior to joining Prince Lobel, Michael served as a judicial clerk to Justice Margot Botsford of the Supreme Judicial Court, and Justice R. Malcolm Graham of the Massachusetts Appeals Court. Michael obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Cornell University, before attending Northeastern University School of Law. Michael served as an At-Large Director and Co-Chair of the Student Support Committee for the 2018–2019 program year, and as part of that duty, directed the MBLA’s scholarship application process and fundraising efforts.

CANDIDATE STATEMENT:

I am a graduate of Cornell University and Northeastern University School of Law. Following graduation from law school, I served as a judicial clerk for Justice R. Malcolm Graham at the Massachusetts Appeals Court, and then for Justice Margot Botsford at the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court. Currently, I am a business litigation associate at Seyfarth Shaw LLP, where my practice focuses on franchise disputes, antitrust liability, and trade secret/non- competition issues.

For the last three years, I have been involved in MBLA initiatives, particularly surrounding support for local law students. I became a Board member in 2018, and have co-chaired the Student Support Committee, including the management of the MBLA’s scholarship award process. I believe one of the most pressing needs of Black attorneys and law students is opportunity for visibility. A number of firms and organizations have dedicated substantial resources to recruiting diverse attorneys, but have not maximized pathways to find qualified recruits. The MBLA can help in that search by highlighting for potential employers the fact that we have knowledge of many qualified Black attorneys and law students.



KIMBERLEY K. ODUMS (INCUMBENT)

BIOGRAPHY:

Kimberley K. Odums (formerly, Kirkland) is the Director of Legal Affairs at the UP Education Network. She was previously an associate in the Boston office of Ogletree Deakins Nash Smoak & Stewart P.C. where she focused her practice on employment litigation and counseling, and Data Privacy work. In her litigation practice, Kimberley represented clients in a wide array of employment disputes and provides defense against claims arising under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Age Discrimination in Employment Act (ADEA), and a host of other federal and state labor and employment statutes. Kimberley's practice included single-plaintiff, class and collective action litigation in state and federal courts, and practice before US federal and state fair employment agencies. Kimberley also advised clients on the full spectrum of labor and employment law matters including statutory compliance, antidiscrimination practices, employment policies, HR procedures, and best practices for avoiding litigation and developing positive employee relations. Through her Data Privacy work, Kimberley provided advice regarding cybersecurity and privacy matters, including applicable state and federal information security requirements. Out of the office, Kimberley participates in a number of pro bono organizations and has led and participated in various workshops and training programs for the Citizens Project and the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Economic Justice. Mrs. Odums received her J.D. with a Business Law concentration from Western New England University School of Law, and her B.A. in History and African & African American Studies from the Pennsylvania State University – University Park.



BETHANY SEROTA (INCUMBENT)

BIOGRAPHY:

Bethany N. Serota is the Deputy Director of the Mayor's Office of Fair Housing & Equity for the City of Boston. She concentrates her practice on a variety of transactional real estate matters including residential and commercial real estate closings. Bethany specializes in representing clients in condominium development and conversion matters including drafting condominium documents and agreements, and representing clients at zoning board meetings. She has extensive experience helping clients throughout the closing process, and negotiating purchase and sale agreements. She also handles related family law matters. Bethany provides strategic and assertive advocacy to ensure that her clients are adequately protected. Bethany Co-Founded and Co-Directs G.I.R.L.S. R.U.L.E., an empowerment program for teenage girls in Roxbury. Bethany also serves as a member of the Citizen's Housing and Planning Association, the Massachusetts Academy of Trial Attorneys, and the Nine Streets Neighborhood Association. She is an active member of the Massachusetts Black Lawyers Association. Prior to joining Tempus Fugit Law, Bethany worked at a state agency focusing primarily on family law matters. Bethany earned her B.A. from Temple University, and she received her J.D. from Suffolk University School of Law.

CANDIDATE STATEMENT:

If elected to serve the esteemed members of the MBLA and Board of Directors as an At-Large Director, in addition to providing support to the President, Officers and Directors and Committees, my role would include serving as the Chair of the Community Service Committee and as a member of the Social Action Committee. My goal in this role is to enhance the annual programs and activities of the Community Service Committee, and to work in tandem with the Social Action Committee in order to empower the MBLA membership and greater legal community to effect social change in the Commonwealth.

I recently served the MBLA's Board of Directors as Secretary during the 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 terms where I was tasked with the record keeping function of the organization, and required to provide exceptional support to the President, Officers, Directors, Committees and Sub-Committees in the successful facilitation, execution and promotion of their events. During the 2017-2018 term, I served as the Social Media and Marketing Chair, a sub-committee of the External Affairs and Marketing Committee, where I worked to promote awareness of the MBLA through the web, and collaborated with the Membership and Development Committee to devise a plan for a professional branding and membership initiative. Additionally, as a member of the Community Service Committee for the past six years, I have played a key role in the development and planning of the annual Know Your Rights events since their inception, and volunteered at all events and activities sponsored by the committee.

As an active member of the MBLA since in 2007, the I can attest to the fact that MBLA not only provides a sense of comradery

in the profession and at the Bar, but serves as a vital resource for professional development, employment, continuing legal education, community service, and networking opportunities. The MBLA also serves to address the most pressing needs of Black attorneys and law students in the Commonwealth.

It has been an honor and a privilege to enhance my participation in the MBLA through continued service on the Board of Directors, and I look forward to earning your vote in order to further the mission and goals of our great organization.



ARIANNE WALDRON

BIOGRAPHY:

Arianne Waldron is an attorney at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit. Prior to working at the court, Arianne practiced at Goodwin Procter, LLP. Arianne currently serves on the governing board of Boston Community Leadership Academy, a pilot school within Boston Public Schools, is the Vice President of Boston College Law School's Black Alumni Network and is a member of the Massachusetts Black Lawyers Association and the Boston Branch of the NAACP. Arianne is also co-owner of District 7 Tavern in Roxbury, site to Boston's oldest black-owned tavern.

Arianne is also co-owner of District 7 Tavern in Roxbury, site to Boston's oldest black-owned tavern.

A product of the Boston Public School system and a nearly lifelong Dorchester resident, Arianne immigrated to Boston from Trinidad as a toddler. Arianne is an alumna of Boston College Law School (J.D.), Boston College Lynch Graduate School of Education (M.Ed.), the University of Massachusetts-Amherst (B.A., *Magna Cum Laude*), and Boston Latin School.

CANDIDATE STATEMENT:

I am interested in creating spaces, reasons and opportunities for black lawyers and black law students to gather, fellowship, network and uplift each other.



PRATT NORTON WILEY (INCUMBENT)

BIOGRAPHY:

Pratt Norton Wiley is the President & CEO of The Partnership, Inc., New England's premier organization dedicated to enhancing the competitiveness of the region by attracting, developing, retaining and convening multicultural professionals. During its three-decade history, The Partnership has collaborated with 500 corporations who have sponsored 4,668 multicultural executives and professionals in the organization's innovative leadership development programming.

Pratt is a leader and strategic planner in fields ranging from law, politics, non-profit management and business management. Previously, Pratt served as the National Director of Voter Expansion for the Democratic National Committee, where he was responsible for designing and executing the DNC's program to ensure that every eligible voter was able to register and vote, and that every vote was accurately counted, from 2013 to 2017. The Voter Expansion program served the political arm to President Barack Obama by supporting Democratic candidates, campaigns, state parties and progressive organizations in all 50 states through the development of tools, resources, and networks dedicated to advancing voting rights. The Voter Expansion program also closely advised the various 2016 Democratic presidential candidates on voting rights matters and supported Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton's 2016 campaign on the same.

Previously, Pratt served as the National Regional Voter Protection Coordinator for Obama for America in 2012, helping build and manage the voting protection programs for the President's re-election in battleground states including Ohio, Michigan, Virginia, Pennsylvania and New Hampshire. Prior to joining President Obama's campaign, Pratt was a corporate attorney at Nutter, McClennen & Fish LLP in Boston, representing a wide range of public and private sector clients in mergers and acquisitions, venture finance, and tax-exempt bond issuances.

Prior to law school, Pratt was a senior administrator at Lesley University in Cambridge, MA, where he served as the special assistant to the senior vice president for Administration & Finance, responsible for all non-academic student-facing services. He also worked at the international internet consulting group, Zentropy Partners, in the firm's sales and marketing group.

Pratt is extensively involved in civic and charitable activities. He was elected as a Council member of the Boston Bar Association and a member of the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Black Lawyers Association. He is also involved in many civic and charitable organizations supporting education and civic life throughout Massachusetts. Pratt received his bachelor's degree from Georgetown University in Washington, DC and his JD from Boston College Law School in Boston, Massachusetts.