

## **Candidate Statement**

I developed a love for government and public policy at a very young age. I grew up in a one of the first major mixed - income, affordable housing complexes in NYC which sparked my initial interest in pursuing a legal career.

From NYC, it was a long professional climb to the political power center in D.C., where I ultimately built my professional career. Early on, I re-established the State Complaint Office at D.C. Public Schools. Later, I served as the SVP of Government Affairs at the D.C. Chamber of Commerce.

Afterwards, I served as deputy chief of staff and director of the office of policy and legislative affairs in the Gray administration, before joining Holland & Knight.

I was the first African American woman to clerk on the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims and also clerked on the DC Superior Court.