

BIOGRAPHY OF LAKEITHA D. CARLOS

La'Keitha Carlos is Chief of Staff to the Chief Executive Officer of DeKalb County, Michael Thurmond. As Chief of Staff, she advises the CEO on all matters enabling the CEO to work most effectively with internal and external stakeholders. La'Keitha plays a key role as the primary contact for top management and day-to-day operations in the CEO's office and manages all executive support staff. Prior to serving in this role, La'Keitha was an Assistant County Attorney in DeKalb County Law Department's Administrative Group where she provided legal counsel to the Purchasing and Contracting and Cable TV departments. Her practice includes drafting contracts, providing advisory opinions, and representing the County in federal and state court proceedings. La'Keitha began her career as an associate with Nelson Mullins practicing Products Liability and Pharmaceutical and Medical Device litigation. After five years of practicing at the firm, she was recruited by a firm client to join Harland Clarke as Corporate Counsel. Providing primary legal support for their Community Markets Division, composed of over 5000 financial institutions with \$455 million in revenue, LaKeitha developed a much broader, more corporate practice allowing her to become a "jack of all trades" as she navigated the world of employment law, marketing and sweepstakes, banking and finance, and risk management. After leaving Harland Clarke, La'Keitha served as Corporate Counsel for Concessions International, LLC, a family and minority-owned company and a leading airport concessionaire, with operations in seven different cities. Taking the knowledge learned working for a leading food and beverage concessionaire, she followed her passion for baking and opened "Sweet Justice", a bakery serving traditional and gourmet cakes and cupcakes. While operating her business part-time, La'Keitha joined KIPP Metro Atlanta Schools as Community Relations Manager where she used her advocacy skills to work all Atlanta KIPP charter schools to promote parent and community engagement and community development.

Her most recent endeavor is founding It's My Birthday, Inc, a 501 (c)(3), that gives birthday parties to underprivileged and sick children across the metro Atlanta area. As President of It's My Birthday, La'Keitha seeks to help bring joy and happiness to the youngest of Atlanta's citizens because every child deserves to celebrate their birthday!

La'Keitha is a proud alumni of Clark Atlanta University where she received her undergraduate degree in Mass Media Arts and a 2003 graduate of Tulane University Law School. Named as one of Georgia Trend's 40 Under Forty and a Mothers Against Drunk Driving Community Champion, Mrs. Carlos is former President of the Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys and currently serves as a member of the Executive Committee of the American Constitution Society. Her greatest accomplishment so far has been becoming a mother to 2 year old Sage Harper Carlos. La'Keitha lives in Atlanta with her husband Joe and daughter Sage.