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Member of House of Delegates since October 21, 1997. Speaker Pro Tem, 2003-. Member, Appropriations Committee, 1997-2003, 2003- (public safety & administration subcommittee, 1997-03; capital budget subcommittee, 1999-03; oversight committee on program open space & agricultural land preservation, 1999-03; vice-chair, oversight committee on personnel, 1999-03; education & economic development subcommittee, 2004-; oversight committee on pensions, 2004-; chair, capital budget subcommittee, 2003-); Legislative Policy Committee, 2003- (management subcommittee, 2003-); Spending Affordability Committee, 2003-; Rules and Executive Nominations Committee, 2004-. House Chair, Joint Committee on Fair Practices, 1999-. House Chair, Joint Advisory Committee on Legislative Data Systems, 2003-. House Chair, Special Committee on State Employee Rights and Protections, 2005-. Member, Ways and Means Committee, 2003 (finance resources subcommittee, 2003; tax & revenue subcommittee, 2003). Co-Chair, Joint Committee on the Selection of the State Treasurer, 2003. Chair, Special Committee on Higher Education Affordability and Accessibility, 2003-04. Member, Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland (formerly Maryland Legislative Black Caucus), 1997- (secretary, 2000-02; chair, redistricting committee, 2000-; member, budget committee, 2000, ethics committee, 2000, labor committee, 2000); Women Legislators of Maryland, 1997- (secretary, 1999-2000; 2nd vice-president, 2000-01; 1st vice-president, 2001-02; chair, endorsement committee, 2001-; president-elect, 2002-03). Member, National Conference of State Legislatures (budgets & revenue committee).

Member, Trial Court Judicial Nominating Commission, 3rd Commission District, 1991-95. Former panelist, Board of Education, Baltimore County. Director, Office of Fair Practices and Community Affairs, Baltimore County, 1994- (24 years service in Baltimore County government). Member, Transportation Task Force, 2003.

Born in Cowdensville, Maryland, November 20, 1954. Attended Baltimore County public schools; University of Maryland Baltimore County, B.A. (psychology), 1976. Director, Office of Minority Affairs, Baltimore County, 1989-95. Executive Director, Office of Fair Practices and Community Affairs, Baltimore County, 1995-. Part-time columnist, The Baltimore Times. Board member, Friends of Benjamin Banneker Historical Park, 1987-97. Member, Woman Power, Inc., 1987-; Liberty/Randallstown Coalition, 1995-97. Board member, Family and Children's Services of Central Maryland, 2002; Political and Community Action Commission, 2003; We Are Family Community Development Center, 2003. Board member, American Cancer Society. Member, Baltimore County Leadership Alumni Board; National Forum for Black Public Administrators; Baltimore Neighborhoods, Inc.; Coalition Opposed to Violence and Extremism (COVE); Coalition of 100 Black Women; Tenth District Democratic Club. Former panelist, Baltimore County Bar Association. Former mentor, Partnership for Success Program, Deer Park Elementary School. At-large member, Baltimore County Democratic Central Committee. Community Services Award, Baltimore Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, 1991. Citizens Award, Baltimore County Police Department, 1993. Award of Appreciation for Outstanding Services to the Asian/Indian Community, 1993. Valued Hours Award, The Fullwood Foundation, 1995. Award of Appreciation, Baltimore County Branch, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), 1996. Meritorious Service Award, National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc., 1996. Governor's Certificate of Merit for outstanding contributions in field of victims' rights and services, 1997. Delegate of the Year, Maryland State's Attorneys' Association, 1998. Parren J. Mitchell Award, Maryland Association of Equal Opportunity Professionals, 1999. Service Above Self Award for Outstanding Public Service, Woodlawn/Westview Rotary Living Legacy Award, Benjamin Banneker Historical Park and Museum, 2001. Award of Excellence, Women in Government Services, 2003. Outstanding Alumna of the Year, University of Maryland Baltimore County, 2003. Maryland's Top 100 Women, Daily Record, 2004. Board of Stewards, Union Bethel A.M.E. Church, 2003. Married; two sons.