

ETHAN CHARLES ASHLEY

3423 Marigny Street, New Orleans, LA 70122 • (504) 345-9952 (Mobile) • ecashley@gmail.com • www.ethanashley.org

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

Innovative and process driven executive leader with eight years of management, program development, fundraising and policy and advocacy experience. Proven ability to combine vision, creativity, personnel, and partnerships with well-developed project management skills and leadership qualities to develop data driven programs that attract funding opportunities. Committed to supporting mission-driven activities, self-care, and development of staff, and relationship building internally and externally. Core competencies include:

- Non-Profit Leadership
- Fundraising
- Start-up and Small Business Development
- Strategic Planning and Project Management
- Policy and Advocacy
- Formal and Informal Classroom Training
- Extensive Public Speaking and Leadership
- Personnel Management and Development

CIVIL RIGHTS POLICY & ADVOCACY EXPERIENCE

Orleans Parish School Board Elected Member, District 2

New Orleans, LA
January 2017 – Present

- Manage and supervise the performance of the Orleans Parish School Board Superintendent to ensure that all of our students receive the resources and support necessary to learn and are on a pathway to attend a college or start a career of their choice.
- Serve as chair of the legal and legislative committee and member of the policy committee for the Orleans Parish School Board to craft and modify policies that ensure child centered equity.
- Oversee constituent services, ensuring inquires, complaints and recommendations are reviewed and resolved in appropriate and timely ways. In coordination with school board member and subject matter experts, engage in fact-finding activities and implement procedures for reporting and acting upon results.
- Oversee management of school contracts, legal matters, facilities, and a \$25,000,000 budget.

Louisiana Children's Research Center for Development and Learning Director of Policy and Advocacy

Metairie, LA
October 2018 – Present

- Craft legislation that requires elementary, special education, and reading specialist candidates to pass a high validity exam on how to teach reading using systematic, evidence-based methods, as a prerequisite for certification from both traditional and alternate programs in every state and the District of Columbia.
- Develop and manage a five-year state and national legislative strategy including marketing, messaging, organizing and mobilizing identified allies, crafting of state specific policy, and advocating for the passage of the crafted legislation.
- Develop and manage coalitions and fundraising efforts in the amount of 2.5 million to support the national legislative agenda.

Urban League of Louisiana Director of Community Engagement

New Orleans, LA
September 2014 – September 2017

- Promoted visibility and leadership of Urban League of Louisiana in the community. Established and maintained relationships with various institutions and leaders, legislators and government officials, diverse community leaders, education leaders, media representatives, and law enforcement personnel.
- Developed and engaged in collaborative programs and initiatives aligned with Urban League of Louisiana's strategic priorities. These efforts increased trust and support with elected officials, business, clergy, government, community, and non-profit leaders to support policies, direct service programs, and legislation disproportionately impacting vulnerable families and communities.
- Effectively and proactively lead statewide initiatives. Activities included recruitment, development, empowerment, training and advising 1,500 current and aspiring leaders within criminal justice, education and civic engagement policy areas.
- Developed fund development strategies and plans to increase revenue goals. Activities included cultivating donor relationships, directly soliciting major donors and diversifying sources of revenue resulting in an additional \$250,000 to the organization in a three-year period.
- Implemented and managed the internship program and onboarding orientation process to ensure proper training.

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Black Alliance for Educational Options

New Orleans, LA

Director of Community and Business Outreach

November 2012 – August 2014

- Represented the Black Alliance for Educational Options (BAEO) and gave speeches in a variety of forums to promote public awareness of BAEO's mission. Served as liaison to the press and general public, demonstrating authoritative knowledge of BAEO's policies and positions to relevant local, state, national and world events.
- Coordinated and managed local outreach, organizing, and advocacy efforts with Black leaders (elected officials, business, clergy, non-profit, etc.), District leaders (Local School Board, Board of Secondary Education, Recovery School District), and School leaders to garner support around K-12 public education policies and legislation that impact low income and working class Black families.
- Raised local funds and managed current grants in excess of \$200,000.
- Managed the day-to-day activities of two full-time staff employees.

Juvenile Justice Project of Louisiana

New Orleans, LA

Juvenile Life Without Parole Campaign Director and Lobbyist

May 2011- November 2012

- Coordinated and managed the statewide litigation strategy and implementation of a Supreme Court ruling for approximately 280 impacted inmates serving a life sentence without parole for crimes committed while they were juveniles.
- Developed and implemented community outreach including initiatives and partnerships with elected leaders and diverse interfaith and community organizations active at the national, state and local level.
- Drafted and filed motions (Correct Illegal Sentence, Reconsider, Continuance), assisted with in court negotiations, and coordinated legal visits.
- Drafted and lobbied to successfully enact legislation (Act 466) that ends life sentences for juveniles in Louisiana for non-homicide offenses.

Managed and organized families and friends of incarcerated juveniles through skill building trainings and workshops in order for them to become advocates to help craft legislative policy and mobilize to end life without parole sentences for juveniles.

Street Law, Inc.

Washington, DC

Independent Legal Research Contractor

January 2011 – May 2011

- Researched legal concepts- Torts, Criminal Law, and Constitutional Law- and policy reform. Managed the creation and review of educational schemes and curriculum. Assisted in establishing practices and policies for implementation of the education curriculum.

Howard University School of Law Civil Rights Legal Clinic

Washington, DC

Student Attorney

January 2010- December 2010

- Drafted a section in an amicus brief on the effects of same-sex marriage and child rearing filed with the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.
- Assisted with motions drafting, discovery, and settlement negotiation for a Section 1983 racial profiling claim against the City of Cumberland, Maryland Police Department.
- Prepared a client memorandum concerning an employment discrimination case under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Age Discrimination in Employment Act explaining that no issue existed for pursuit of an appeal.

Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights & Urban Affairs, Prisoners' Project

Washington, DC

Summer Legal Associate

May 2010- July 2010

- Managed a caseload of thirty-five clients, including analysis, research, and investigation of prison litigation issues.
- Drafted legal client letters.
- Assisted prison policy and advocacy working-group in drafting legislation on the ban the box campaign.

United States Department of Justice- Civil Rights Division, Criminal Section

Washington, DC

Legal Intern

May 2009- December 2009

- Researched and drafted motions *in limine* and severance motions.
- Drafted responses to motions to dismiss criminal charges under federal civil rights provisions.
- Conducted document review on human trafficking, police brutality, and color of law violation cases.
- Managed research project on crack and powder cocaine disparity.

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EDUCATION

Howard University School of Law

Washington, DC

Juris Doctor, May 2011

Honors: **CALI Award Recipient**, Outstanding Academic Achievement in Federal Criminal Law
Crowell & Moring LLP Public Interest Fellow
The Human Rights & Globalization Law Review, Best Comment in 2010 Write-On Competition

Activities: Senior Editor, *The Human Rights & Globalization Law Review*
Competitive Member, **Huver I. Brown Trial Advocacy Moot Court Team**
Teaching Assistant Clerk under Judge Authur Burnett, Sr., **Trial Advocacy Skills Course**
Eleventh Circuit Governor, **American Bar Association Law Student Division**
Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., **Theta Tau Chapter**

Howard University

Washington, DC

Bachelor of Science, Political Science, May 2008 (Completed four-year degree in three years Magna Cum Laude)

Honors: **Thurgood Marshall Scholar**
Dean's list 2005-2008

Activities: **Hilltop** (Howard University newspaper), Contributing Writer
Howard University Martin Luther King Mock Trial Team, Defense Attorney (National Team)

CORE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Received the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Community Leadership Award
- Greater New Orleans Foundation Emerging Leader Fellow
- W.K. Kellogg Foundation Community Leadership Fellow
- New Orleans Regional Leadership Institute Fellow
- Recognized in the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated Journal
- Recognized as 40 under 40 leader by the Youth Empowerment Project of Louisiana
- Nexus City Fellow
- Received the 2017 Change Maker at the Millennial Awards in New Orleans

SERVICE & MEMBERSHIP

- Youth Run NOLA – Board Member
- Young Elected Officials Network- Member
- Boy Scouts of America, Southeast Louisiana Council – Executive Board Member
- New Leaders Council Louisiana Chapter- Member
- Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure- Volunteer Chair
- New Orleans Black Male Achievement Network- Director
- Urban League New Orleans Young Professionals- Member
- Louis A. Martinet Legal Society- Community Service Chair

PUBLICATIONS & FEATURED ARTICLES

Ashley, E. (2008). *The United States Criminal Justice System: A Critical Analysis of Media and African American Celebrity Based Incarceration Rates*. The National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) 2008, the American Psychological Association Annual Conference, Washington, DC.

Louisiana BAEO, *Calling for Black Leadership in New Orleans*, NEW ORLEANS OUTREACH AND ADVOCACY NEWS, Vol. 1, Iss. 1, available at: http://scoter.baeo.org/news_multi_media/20130703-issue01_v07.pdf

Letters to the Editor, *Charter schools are transforming education in Louisiana: Eric B. Lewis and Ethan Ashley*, NOLA.COM | THE TIMES-PICAYUNE, May 9, 2014, available at: http://www.nola.com/opinions/index.ssf/2014/05/charter_schools_are_transformi.html

Mary Moran, *ULEAD the pack in developing leadership among black ed reformers* (Interview with Ethan Ashley), THE SECOND LINE EDUCATION BLOG, May 14, 2014, available at: <http://secondlineblog.org/2015/05/ulead-leads-the-pack-in-developing-leadership-among-black-ed-reformers/>