

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF SHEILAH D. VANCE, ESQUIRE

Sheilah D. Vance, Esquire has a B.A. in Communications, magna cum laude, from Howard University and a J.D. from the Georgetown University Law Center.

Vance maintains a private law practice in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, primarily concentrating in education law. She also is an Affiliated Consultant with The NCHERM (National Center for Higher Education Risk Management) Group, where she works with higher education and K-12 institutions on education compliance issues with a focus on Title IX and civil rights investigations and policy review, as well as general risk management. She is an adjunct professor at Villanova University School of Law, where she teaches Education Law.

Formerly, Vance was Chief of Staff and Deputy to the President at Cheyney University of Pennsylvania. She oversaw all operations of the Office of the President., assisted the president on all major initiatives and projects, chaired eight committees, and served as the university's Title IX Coordinator, Social Equity Officer, Right-to-Know Officer, Campus Coordinator for the Fraud Incident Reporting System of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education, and chaired the Administration Group of the University's 2014 Middle States Reaccreditation Steering Committee, which successfully proved institutional compliance with Standards 4 – 6. She was extensively involved in establishing educational partnerships with Institute Polytechnique de Byumba and Rwanda Governance Board.

Vance was formerly President and General Counsel of the Institute for Educational Equity and Opportunity, a research, education and training organization that focused on K-12 public school finance issues, which was based in Washington, DC and Philadelphia. She previously spent nine years at Villanova Law School as Assistant Dean for Academic Support and as a legal writing professor.

Vance has published and presented extensively in the areas of public and legal education, family law, church law and publishing law, including at conferences at Oxford University in England, the Association of Title IX Administrators, the American Council on Education Women's Network, the National Bar Association, the American Association of Law Schools, the Education Law Association, the Law School Admissions Council, the Pennsylvania Bar Institute, and for the African Methodist Episcopal Church Philadelphia and Delaware Conferences. She also has been interviewed and featured in numerous media outlets, including CNN Radio and The Washington Post, about family law issues. Vance has given workshops and spoken on many related topics including the Top 10 Land Mines of Divorce, 10 Things Every Married Woman Should Know, Divorce from the Client's Perspective, Five Ways to Help Children Cope With Divorce, and Legal Issues in Book Publishing.

In 2006, Vance received the 2006 Woman of Distinction Award from the Barristers Association of Philadelphia, the local affiliate of the National Bar Association, for “exemplary service to the community through the practice of law” and “impressive personal accomplishments as an African American attorney.”

Vance is the author of three novels: *Becoming Valley Forge*, which won the Regional Fiction Award, 2016 Next Generation Indie Book Awards; *Land Mines*, which has won several awards for women's, multicultural and African American fiction; and *Chasing the 400*, which was the first selection of the African American Museum of Philadelphia book club and a Top 20 Bestseller in Black Expressions Book Club. She also is the author of three other nonfiction books, *Six Days in December: General George Washington's and the Continental Army's Encampment on Rebel Hill, December 13 – 19, 1777*; *Creativity for Christians*, and *Navigating*

the Land Mines. To manage her creative pursuits, Vance operates the Elevator Group, LLC, which is a publishing and media development company that is dedicated to helping people rise above and live an abundant life.

She is a member of numerous civic and professional organizations, including the Board of Directors of Teach for American, Greater Philadelphia Region; Board of Directors for the Association of Title IX Administrators; and National Association of College and University Attorneys. She is also a member of the Penn Towne Chapter of the Links, Inc, and Bethel AME Church, Ardmore, PA, and its Lay Organization.

Previously, Vance worked as Project Manager for the American Cities Foundation Best Practices in Urban Education Project, Special Assistant to the Pennsylvania Secretary of Education, Assistant Counsel for the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority, Associate in the firm of Atkinson & Archie, Editor for Higher Education Publications for the National Education Association, and Legislative Correspondent for U.S. Congresswoman Cardiss Collins. She was Press Secretary to former Pennsylvania Governor Robert P. Casey during his successful 1986 campaign, and has worked as a consultant for the Democratic National Committee and numerous political candidates.