



PRESS RELEASE

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LaShawn Y. Warren Named Vice President and General Counsel at the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice



Newark, New Jersey—The New Jersey Institute for Social Justice (the “Institute”) announced today that LaShawn Y. Warren has been named Vice President and General Counsel of the Institute. A premier social justice organization, the Institute’s mission is to empower residents of urban communities to realize and achieve their radical potential.

Ms. Warren’s appointment follows the recent appointment of Ryan P. Haygood, who became the Institute’s third President and CEO earlier this year.

“As part of the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice’s new leadership team, LaShawn will leverage her broad expertise to advance the Institute’s cutting-edge work in expanding access to social justice and economic opportunity, and advocating for juvenile and criminal justice reform across New Jersey,” said Haygood. “We are thrilled to welcome LaShawn to the Institute in a new role that will help us champion equality and opportunity for the most vulnerable residents in our cities. LaShawn will help advance our ambitious urban agenda, which seeks to empower healthy urban communities by toppling the load-bearing walls of structural inequality.”

“I have devoted my career to addressing the root causes of social and economic disparities and to creating greater opportunity for marginalized communities,” stated Ms. Warren. “At such a critical moment, I am excited to join the Institute’s dedicated team to continue its important work in creating more inclusive urban communities.”

A civil rights attorney for nearly 20 years, Warren comes to the Institute after serving as the Vice President of Policy Development and Programming at the American Constitution Society for Law and Policy (“ACS”). At ACS, Warren supervised the creation and execution of the organization’s national programming, including ACS’s annual national convention, expert convenings, and congressional and executive briefings on issues of equality and liberty, democracy and voting,

criminal justice, economic, antitrust, workplace and environmental law, separation of powers, and the courts.

Before joining ACS, Warren worked as Oversight Counsel for the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary, where she was lead counsel for the committee's investigation into the enforcement of federal civil rights laws by the U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division.

Warren also served as Legislative Counsel for Civil Rights in the Washington Legislative Office of the American Civil Liberties Union. In that capacity, Warren prepared written and oral testimony and conducted briefings for congressional and executive branch staff, and was the lead legislative strategist for the 2006 successful effort to reauthorize the federal Voting Rights Act, celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

In May, Warren graduated from Yale Divinity School, where she focused on ethics, faith, and social movements and effective paradigms for building healthy urban communities. Warren also is a graduate of Howard University School of Law, where she was co-editor-in-chief of the Social Justice Law Review and a member of the Charles Hamilton Houston Moot Court team. She graduated *magna cum laude* from Savannah State College and earned a certificate in non-profit management from Georgetown University.

About the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice

The New Jersey Institute for Social Justice is a Newark-based urban research and advocacy organization dedicated to the advancement of New Jersey's urban areas and residents. The Institute works to identify, analyze, and address the underlying causes of social and economic disparities and to challenge the barriers that constrain cities and their residents from achieving their full potential. Since its inception in 1999, when it was founded by Alan V. and Amy Lowenstein, the Institute has implemented a range of programs to create more just, vibrant, and healthy urban communities throughout New Jersey. For more information, visit www.njisj.org or follow us on twitter at @nj_isj.