

**Biographical Sketch of Lezli Baskerville, Esquire
President & CEO
National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO)**

Lezli Baskerville is the fifth and first female President & CEO of the **National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO)**, the only national membership, advocacy and capacity building association for the nation's 103 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and 75 Predominantly Black Institutions (PBIs). She is a seasoned lawyer, government relations and equity professional who characterizes her service as that of a "Change Agent." Dr. Baskerville is an accomplished small business and association senior executive, who is a recognized expert on equal educational and employment opportunity, education excellence and access; pipeline issues, affirmative action and diversity issues. She is published in the fields.

Prior to ascending to the helm of NAFEO, Ms. Baskerville served as Vice President for Government Relations for The College Board. In that capacity, Baskerville was responsible for shaping and advancing the legislative agenda of The College Board, providing leadership to The Board's Upward Bound program and Educational Opportunity Center –TRIO programs that collectively prepare, inspire and connect low-income, first generation, traditionally underserved students and adults to college and opportunity. While serving as an officer at The College Board, attorney Baskerville shaped, directed, edited and engaged the nation in a dialogue regarding "Investing More Equitably and Efficiently in Higher Education, Creating Value for America," titled, "Challenging Times, Clear Choices: An Action Agenda for College Access and Success." She also shaped, wrote significant portions and led the Board in preparing a Supreme Court amicus curiae brief in the *Gratz v. Bollinger* higher education diversity case.

For ten years prior to joining The College Board, Attorney Baskerville managed a successful private legal and legislative services collective—The Baskerville Group—that provided legal and government relations representation, advocacy and diversity services to higher education institutions and associations, municipalities, elected officials, candidates for office, non-profit associations, small businesses and corporations. In this capacity, Baskerville shaped and wrote significant portions of twenty-eight (28) national public policy documents.

For two decades Baskerville served as outside counsel to NAFEO and played central roles in preparing Supreme Court amicus curiae briefs on behalf of NAFEO, the National Medical Association and National Bar Association in leading educational equity and affirmative cases, such as *Weber*, *Bakke*, and *Fullilove*. Baskerville also played a leading role in shaping, advancing and for ten years, monitoring the enforcement of the consent decree in the landmark higher education desegregation case of *Adams v. Califano*.

Attorney Baskerville also served as executive director of the National Black Leadership Roundtable, Appellate Counsel at the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, national legislative counsel for the NAACP, and as an administrative appeals judge in the District of Columbia.

Lezli Baskerville received a *Bachelor of Arts* degree, with honors from Douglass College, Rutgers University and in 1998, was inducted into The Douglass Society (the College's Hall of Fame) in recognition of her unstinting commitment to improving the quality of life of vulnerable populations. She holds a *Juris Doctorate* degree with honors from Howard University School of Law, and an *Honorary Doctorate of Laws* from Benedict College. Baskerville is also a graduate of the Executive Management Program for Minority Directors at Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Business.

Ms. Baskerville is the recipient of numerous awards and citations. She was named by *AOL Black Voices* as one of the nation's "Top 10 Black Women in Higher Education," and by *Ebony Magazine* for four consecutive years as one of America's Top 100 Most Influential Association Leaders. She was recently included in *The History Makers*, a national oral history of African American achievement. Baskerville is a member of the Shiloh Baptist Church of Washington, D.C., where she was a founding member of the Shiloh Legal Eagles and a member of the inaugural *pro bono* legal team.

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