
CHALANA M. SCALES-FERGUSON, ESQ. - BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Chalana M. Scales-Ferguson, Esq. is an attorney, entrepreneur, consultant, and writer whose research and service centers the intersectionality of race and gender, specifically within workplace, educational, and family systems. Chalana is a licensed member of the Missouri Bar who has a multifaceted portfolio of experiences in private legal practice, nonprofit and higher education executive leadership, academic student success, and diversity, equity, and inclusion. As an attorney in St. Louis, MO she represented corporations and school districts in education, employment and business law matters both in a major management-side law firm and as managing attorney of Ferguson Law Group, P.C.

Chalana earned her Juris Doctorate degree with a concentration in employment law from Saint Louis University School of Law and received her undergraduate degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia in Interdisciplinary Studies with emphases in Black Studies, Psychology and Women's Studies. Chalana also earned a Certified Diversity Executive (CDE)® certification.

Prior to pursuing her legal education, Chalana gained professional experience in corporate and non-profit organizations, while devoting most of her time to raising her two daughters, Jazmyn and Raevyn. Having aspired to become an attorney for most of her life, she returned to law school at a time when she felt she could achieve appropriate balance in her family and professional life. Her daughters served as her inspiration for her completing law school and she knew she was setting an example for them of how to be committed to family while pursuing personal and professional goals.

Chalana is devoted to community and is a passionate and active servant leader who recognizes how important “the Village” is to her story. Recognizing that, “To whom much is given, much is required” she has engaged with civic organizations including the the United Way of Greater St. Louis, Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure Steering Committee, and the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis and Boys and Girls Club of St. Louis. She has served on the board of directors for YWCA Metro St. Louis and Boys and Girls Club of the Columbia Area.

She is a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated and currently serves as President of the St. Louis Metropolitan Alumnae Chapter. She is also an active member of The Links, Incorporated, St. Louis (MO) Chapter and the National Council of Negro Women. Chalana is also involved with the Mound City Bar Association, the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis, and board of governors of the National Bar Association.

In efforts to enhance her leadership and business acumen, Chalana matriculated through the FOCUS-St. Louis Coro™ Women in Leadership and Leadership St. Louis, as well as the St. Louis Business Diversity Initiative Fellows programs. Chalana has been recognized in the community for her service and leadership through awards including: St. Louis American Salute to Young Leaders, Ameren Community Lights, St. Louis Phenomenal Woman, DELUX Magazine Power 100 and Urban League Distinctive Young Leaders. During her tenure in academia, she was the recipient of the Lloyd L. Gaines Award from the Black Law Students Association, the Faculty Excellence Award from the Board of Advocates, Carey Mae Carroll Award from the MU Women's Law Association, and the MU Inclusive Excellence Award from the University-wide Staff Advisory Council.

Chalana is the founder of MYnd Over Matter Consulting where she leverages her legal background and expertise in diversity, equity, and inclusion to aid organizations, companies, academic institutions, and law firms develop strategies to continue striving for inclusive workplaces in the midst of a complex

sociopolitical terrain. She also serves as the Founder and Executive Director MYnd Over Matter, Inc., a nonprofit organization which primarily Black women as they navigate their personal, familial, and professional journeys. Chalana and her husband, Lathon, co-founded, Marriage MasterMYnds, LLC a couples mentoring ministry and network, in which they promote healthy marriages and family life. Chalana is thrilled to use her professional and personal achievements to pour into others, especially young women and girls, through education, service, and mentoring.