

## **Bio for Kimberly C. Sherrod Barnes**

Kimberly C. Barnes is an exceptional leader, advocate, and changemaker dedicated to advancing equity, diversity, and inclusion in child welfare systems. As the Executive Director of CASA for Douglas County, she has spent over 25 years championing the rights and well-being of children and families, with a particular focus on Black and Brown communities. Her influence extends nationally, as she serves on the **National CASA/GAL Urban Leadership Council**, where she helps shape policies and standards that support urban CASA programs across the country.

Kimberly's leadership is deeply rooted in community engagement, mentorship, and systemic change. A highly respected nonprofit professional, she graduated from the **Nonprofit Association of the Midlands—Nonprofit Executive Institute, Inclusive Communities LeadDIVERSITY program**, and **Leadership Omaha (Class 45)**, where she also serves on the curriculum committee. She actively mentors emerging leaders through the **Nonprofit Association of the Midlands Rising Leaders Institute**, ensuring that future nonprofit professionals are equipped to drive impactful change.

Her dedication to philanthropy is evident in her service on the **African American Unity Fund** and the **Community Interest Fund Committee** of the Omaha Community Foundation, where she has helped allocate nearly \$1 million in funding to Black-led initiatives. Additionally, as **President of the Native Omahans Club**, Kimberly plays a pivotal role in preserving and uplifting Omaha's Black cultural heritage, including overseeing the historic **Native Omaha Days** festival.

Kimberly's impact is widely recognized, and she received the **2023 National Coalition of 100 Black Women—Omaha Chapter Culture Award**. She is also a graduate of the **Morehouse School of Medicine—Satcher Health Institute Community Health Leadership Program**, which reinforces her commitment to improving health and social outcomes for marginalized populations.

Her recent **appointment to the National CASA/GAL Urban Leadership Council** further solidifies her as a national leader in child advocacy. In this role, she collaborates with experts nationwide to improve services for the **569,000 children in foster care annually**, ensuring best-interest advocacy remains a priority for vulnerable youth.

A **first-generation college graduate**, Kimberly earned her **Bachelor of Science in Human and Social Service Administration with honors from Bellevue University**. She is an Omaha native and proud **Omaha North High School alumna**.

Kimberly C. Barnes exemplifies leadership, service, and advocacy. Her relentless pursuit of justice and equity in child welfare and her deep community engagement make her an outstanding candidate for this award. Her work continues to transform lives, ensuring every child, regardless of their circumstances, has a voice and a hopeful future.