

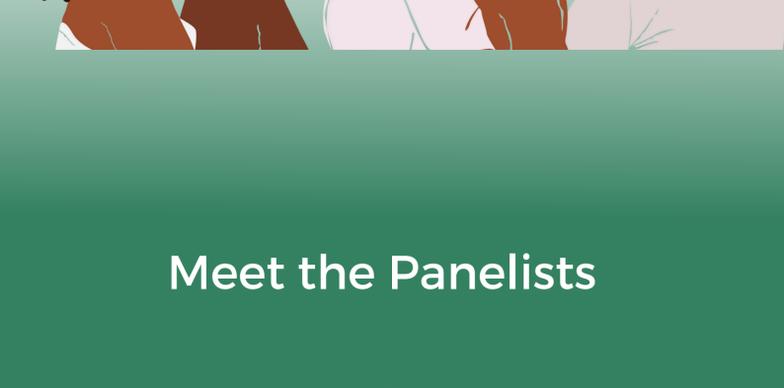
Welcome!

to the

HAIR DISCRIMINATION FORUM

Presented by Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.[®]

Chi Epsilon Omega Chapter | East Lansing, MI



Meet the Panelists



Senator Sarah Anthony

Senator Sarah Anthony has always fought for equity and opportunity for all Michiganders, including the most vulnerable among us. The daughter of UAW (United Autoworkers) retirees and the first Black woman to serve as state representative in Lansing's history, Anthony is a champion of working families and marginalized communities. She is the Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee and is serving her first term in the Michigan Senate.

As Chair of the House Democratic Caucus, she earned a reputation as a pragmatic, effective legislator in the Michigan House of Representatives, where she passed multiple bills into law with substantial bipartisan and stakeholder support. She continues to fight to strengthen education, expand health care, reform Michigan's criminal justice system and improve the economy for small businesses.

Senator Anthony was born and raised in Lansing's south side. She has a bachelor's degree from Central Michigan University and earned a master's degree from Western Michigan University.



Judge Kristen Simmons

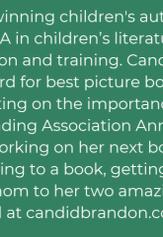
Judge Simmons has deep roots in the Lansing community and is dedicated public servant. She is a graduate of Hampton University and WMU Cooley Law School. Judge Simmons brings a host of quality experience to the bench. She has performed successfully in various capacities. She is the former Litigation Manager for the Michigan Department of Corrections. She has served as a litigation attorney in the Office of Michigan Attorney General. She has served in The Office of the Lansing City Attorney, serving as a 54-A District Court prosecutor as well as the Legal Advisor to the Lansing Police Department and the Police Board of Commissioners. She has experience as a Public Defender in Ingham County and she has also served as an adjunct faculty member at Lansing Community College, where she taught legal writing, business law, and piloted a family law clinic.

Judge Simmons brings to the bench robust litigation and trial court experience, having litigated countless legal matters within Ingham County and across the state of Michigan. She has practiced law extensively within The United States Federal Courts of both Eastern and Western Districts; she has argued successfully before the Michigan Court of Appeals; and she is sworn-in to practice before the United States Supreme Court. In 2013, she championed efforts to create a law clinic in collaboration with Lansing Community College and Legal Services of South Central Michigan with the goal of providing legal resources to low-income families.

Judge Simmons is an award-winning legal advocate and has received the following awards:
***Nation's Best Advocates: Top 40 Lawyers under 40, by the National Bar Association in 2021
***Top 40 under Forty" by Hampton University in 2020
**Scott-Hawkins Leadership Fellow, The Links, Inc. Cohort VIII in 2020
**Ingham County's "Top 5 Attorney under 35" in 2017
***Rising Star Attorney" by the Davis-Dunnings Bar Association in 2015.

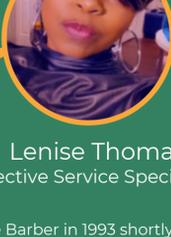
Judge Simmons currently serves as a Commissioner for the State Bar of Michigan, where she also serves on the Character and Fitness Committee. She is a member of the Lansing Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., The Lansing-East Lansing Chapter of The Links, Incorporated, the Association of Black Judges-MI, Michigan District Judges Association, The National Bar Association, Women's Lawyer Association MI, the Ingham County Bar Association and she is a member and Past-President of the Davis-Dunnings Bar Association.

When she is not wearing a robe, Judge Simmons serves as the director of the youth choir at her local church, where she also serves on the worship team. She is a certified Zumba instructor. She also serves as a mentor to many youth and young professionals.



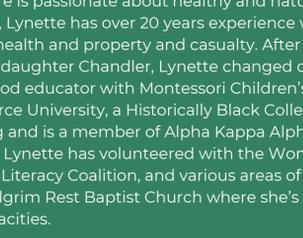
Candid Brandon
Author

Candid Taylor Brandon is an award-winning children's author from Flint, Michigan. She holds a BA from Clark Atlanta University, MA in children's literature from Eastern Michigan University, and a MA in adult education and training. Candid has two books Oh Brother, Little Brother (2020 Silver Moonbeam Award for best picture book) and Unapologetic Hair. This year Candid has the honor of presenting on the importance of visual literacy in K-6 classrooms at the 2023 Michigan Reading Association Annual Conference. When she isn't researching children's literature or working on her next book, you can find her on her patio with a cup of coffee, reading or listening to a book, getting lost in Target, pinning on Pinterest, or enjoying time being a mom to her two amazing girls Chandler (9) and Aubrey (7). You can learn more about Candid at candidbrandon.com.



Lenise Thomas
Child Protective Service Specialist & Barber

Lenise Thomas became a license Barber in 1993 shortly after graduating from high school. She was one of the youngest African American women to start a license Barber shop business in the community she grew up in. She has been the proud owner of the Emerge full-service salon in Redford, Michigan since 1995. It has not only been a passion to beautify her clients, but to help provide health care information on how to maintain their hair. Although her talented Barber skills helped increase the self-esteem of men, women, and children; the health, and safety of children became her biggest passion. While cutting many of her teenage client's hair, this allowed for much connecting and bonding with her younger clientele. So much that it led her to want to see changes in the law that promoted fairness and second chances to young people. This encouraged Lenise to obtain a criminal justice degree in law enforcement, and then later return to school for her Master's in Public Safety. However, this wasn't enough for Lenise. She later became employed as a Foster Care specialist with the state of Michigan Department of Health and Human Service Child and Welfare Division. After working for a few years in foster care she accepted a position as a Child Protective Service Specialist where she also co-chairs the Business Service Center 5 Diversity Equity and Inclusion Group on racial disparities in Macomb County. She works closely with foster care parents and private agencies to provide basic hair care training to families that have gracefully foster African American children. Her goal is to help develop the child from a whole family approach, believing that hair is extremely connected to one's self-esteem. Her goal is to make sure children feel confident about how their hair looks and to feel proud of the skin they are in.



Lynette & Chandler McClure
Educator & Entrepreneur

As the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of L'm In Essentials, LLC, a natural skincare company, Lynette McClure is passionate about healthy and natural living. With a background in insurance, Lynette has over 20 years experience working in corporate environments spanning health and property and casualty. After leaving Corporate America following the birth of her daughter Chandler, Lynette changed career directions and now serves as an early childhood educator with Montessori Children's House of Lansing. Lynette graduated from Wilberforce University, a Historically Black College (HBCU), in Ohio where she majored in Marketing and is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. Passionate about service, Lynette has volunteered with the Women's Center of Greater Lansing, the Capital Area Literacy Coalition, and various areas of community outreach. She is a long-time member of Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church where she's led Public Relations and volunteered in many capacities.

Lynette lives in Dewitt with her husband Donell and daughter Chandler.

Chandler McClure is a 9 year old, 4th grade student attending Montessori Children's House of Lansing. Her favorite topics of study are science, zoology, and history. She is an avid reader who shares her love of reading by donating books to the Capital Area Literacy Coalition. With a passion for service, Chandler has volunteered with the Women's Center of Greater Lansing, and the Cristo Rey Community Center.

She showcases her love for performing arts through dance, song, and playing the alto saxophone. Chandler has a deep appreciation for her heritage and culture, and takes great pride in who she is. Her favorite Bible scripture is "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Phil 4:13 NKJV).

Chandler lives in DeWitt with her parents, Donell and Lynette.



LaShawn Harris, Ph.D.
Associate Professor

LaShawn Harris is an Associate Professor of History at Michigan State University and Assistant Editor of the Journal of African American History (JAAH). Her area of expertise includes twentieth century African American and Black Women's history. Harris's scholarly essays have appeared in The Journal of African American History, Journal of Social History, and the Journal of Urban History. Harris's work has been widely featured in popular media outlets, including TV-One, Glamour Magazine, Elle, Vice, The Huffington Post, The History Channel, Black Perspectives, and Paramount Television Studios. Her first monograph Sex Workers, Psychics, and Number Runners: Black Women in New York City's Underground Economy was published by the University of Illinois Press in 2016. In 2017, Sex Worker, Psychics, and Numbers Runners won the Organization of American Historians (OAH) Darlene Clark Hine award for the best book in African American women's and gender history. Currently, Harris is at work on a second monograph. This project, entitled SayHerName: Eleanor Bumpurs, Police Violence & The Crime That Changed New York, tells the story of Black women and police violence during the 1980s.



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