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Throughout her career, Professor Tyler has worked for several prominent non-profit think tanks and advocacy organizations including Justice Policy Institute, Drug Policy Alliance, Open Society Foundations and Human Rights Watch. She's worked with Congress and the executive branch on a range of federal criminal justice, drug and public health, immigration, and national security policy issues. Professor Tyler has also engaged in numerous human rights treaty reviews through many United Nations bodies, including the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission, Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the most recent UN General Assembly on the World Drug Problem, and the Commission to Eliminate Racial Discrimination, and the US Universal Periodic Review.

Professor Tyler grew up visiting her father in prison, developing a keen early understanding of structural oppression in the US. She holds an MA from Brown University and a BS from James Madison University, both in sociology. She serves on boards for Free Minds Book Club and Writing Workshop and Students for Sensible Drug Policy. She is a member of the Washington, DC-based Phi Sigma Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Incorporated and is a Lifetime Member of the Girl Scouts.