



Plenary Part 2: A “Lightning Round” of Ideas on Bail Reform

The Honorable Latrice Walker, New York State Assembly



Latrice Monique Walker was elected to the New York State Assembly in 2014 in a special election. A native of the Brownsville section of Brooklyn, Assemblywoman Latrice Walker is a licensed attorney.

Walker was educated in the New York City public schools. She went on to receive her undergraduate degree from SUNY Purchase College, where she double-majored in sociology and political science. She earned a Juris Doctor degree from Pace University and was admitted to the New York State Bar in 2007. Assemblywoman Walker has dedicated her life’s work to advocacy.

For nearly a decade, Walker has worked with local elected officials to preserve affordable housing while advocating for residents of the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA). Born and raised in Prospect Plaza, a NYCHA development demolished under a Federal HOPE VI grant, the Assemblywoman has firsthand experience on the effects of displacement and the need for adequate legislative representation. As a litigator, she has helped tenants avoid eviction and defended young minority victims of the NYPD’s “stop-and-frisk” tactic.

She represents the 55th Assembly District in the New York State Legislature as the chair of the Election Law Committee. She is a member of the Codes, Judiciary, Housing, and Ways and Means Committees. Currently, she serves as the 1st Vice Chair of the New York State Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic & Asian Legislative Caucus.

Walker is a proud member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Sigma Kappa Zeta Chapter, the New York City Bar Association and a founding member of the Ocean Hill-Brownsville Coalition of Young Professionals. As a private citizen, Latrice remains very active in community affairs and is a member of Wayside Baptist Church, a preeminent faith institution in her community.



She resides in Ocean-Hill Brownsville and is the proud mother of a daughter, Nile Anderson.

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James Quinn, Former Senior Executive District Attorney, Queens District Attorney's Office, under District Attorney Richard A Brown



James Quinn is a former Senior Executive District Attorney of the Queens District Attorney's Office, under District Attorney Richard A. Brown. Mr. Quinn has over 40 years of experience as a law enforcement professional at the Queens DA's Office and has worked as an Assistant District Attorney in the Appeals Bureau, the Rackets Bureau, the Homicide Investigations Bureau, the Supreme Court Bureau, the Major Offense Prosecution Bureau, and the Homicide Trial Bureau. In 1989, he became Deputy Bureau Chief of Homicide Investigations, where he supervised

10 Assistant District Attorneys in the investigation of homicide cases. Mr. Quinn's team investigated a triple homicide during a liquor store robbery which resulted in the dismissal of charges against William Gergel, who was originally indicted for the murders. He subsequently indicted and tried Lawrence Condon, who was convicted of the murders after a jury trial. Mr. Quinn became Bureau Chief of Narcotics Investigations in 1990, was Executive Assistant District Attorney of the Trial Division from 1991 – 2020. In this role, he supervised approximately 155 Assistant District Attorneys in the Intake, Criminal Court, Grand Jury, Career Criminal, Gang Violence/Hate Crimes, Supreme Court and Narcotic Trials Bureaus. As Executive Assistant District Attorney, he tried Kwame Jackson for the 1993 murder of Police Officer Milagros Johnson and tried the first death penalty case in Queens County wherein James Allen Gordon was convicted of Murder in the First Degree and sentenced to Life Imprisonment without parole.

From 2007 to 2009, Mr. Quinn served as an Adjunct Professor of Law at St. John's University School of Law, and also as Coach to the St. John's University of Law Mock Trial Team. He earned a BA in Political Science from Columbia University in 1973, and his Juris Doctor from Fordham University in 1976.



Alice Fontier, Managing Director, Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem



Alice Fontier is the Managing Director of NDS Harlem, a holistic public defense office providing criminal, civil, and family defense. She has been a practicing criminal defense attorney for nineteen years after graduating from NYU School of Law. Prior to joining NDS Harlem, Alice was the Managing Director of the Criminal Defense Practice at the Bronx Defenders. She has previously worked as a Supervising Attorney at NDS Harlem, the Federal Defenders of San Diego, and as a private attorney in both the federal and state courts of New York. She has handled several high-profile national security cases and other media cases. Alice is the Immediate Past President of the New York State Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.



Charles Billups, Chairperson, Grand Council of Guardians



Mr. Charles Billups presently holds the position of Chairperson in The Grand Council of Guardians (The Council) and has done for over 25 years. The Grand Council of Guardians Inc. was formed in 1974 as an umbrella organization that consists of six African Americans fraternal organizations in the field of Law Enforcement, Uniform and Civilians throughout New York City. Realizing that there were other Law Enforcement African American organizations that were having similar problems and stood alone with no support, Mr. Billups decided to reorganize The Council by bringing in these different fraternal organizations throughout New York State together. Today, The Council consists of or is affiliated with over two dozen Law enforcement fraternal organizations throughout New York State. Being a tremendous source of support and a strong voice for

members of The Council, Mr. Billups is always working on fixing the Gap between Black Law Enforcement, the African Americans and Latinos communities by reinforcing the community base ties in many different ways (i.e., doing community outreach during times like Thanksgiving & Christmas, Supporting Gun Legislation that take guns out of our communities and Legislation that made N.Y. Police agencies accountable on questionable shootings, holding Press Conferences about the injustice in the African American communities, Take Back Our Community (TBOC), Adopting Public School Mentoring Programs, workshops on what to do when stop by the police, which The Council started displaying in New York in 1994). Mr. Billups is also a Law Enforcement Consultant on N.Y. Policing and N.Y. Correction policies and a criminal investigator for different NY Law Firms, and a Pass member of The N.Y.C.L.U. Advisory Task Force Board on Police Brutality and Community Policing. Mr. Billups has been involved in various organizations in communities throughout New York State with over 25 years as a Law Enforcement Officer (retired), and a NYS Municipal Police Instructor (various subjects). Mr. Billups attended NYC Public School and went to college for studies in Electrical Engineering. He has received a various number of awards from different organizations throughout the country and from a host of Elected Officials for the work he has done throughout different communities.

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Kevin Sylvester, Chief of Police, Ossining Police Department



Kevin Sylvester is the Chief of the Ossining Police Department. He is the President of the Westchester County Chiefs of Police Association, 1st Vice President of New York State Association of Chiefs of Police, and is the Vice Chair of the Public Information Officers Section of the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Chief Sylvester holds a Bachelor of Science from Empire State College and a Juris Doctor from the Elizabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University. In addition to his duties as Chief of Police, he is a practicing attorney and serves as an adjunct professor at Pace University.

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Akash Mehta, Editor-in-Chief, New York Focus



Akash Mehta is editor-in-chief of [New York Focus](#), an investigative news publication that covers state politics in the Empire State. His reporting has also appeared in publications including The Intercept, The Nation, THE CITY, Jacobin, City & State and Gothamist.