

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with The Honorable Stephanie Rawlings-Blake

PERSON

Rawlings-Blake, Stephanie, 1970-

Alternative Names: The Honorable Stephanie Rawlings-Blake;

Life Dates: March 17, 1970-

Place of Birth: Baltimore, Maryland, USA

Residence: Baltimore, MD

Work: Washington, D.C.

Occupations: Political Leader; Mayor

Biographical Note

Political leader Stephanie Rawlings-Blake was born on March 17, 1970 in Baltimore, Maryland to Nina Rawlings and Howard Rawlings. After graduating from Western High School in Baltimore, Maryland in 1988, Rawlings-Blake received her B.A. degree in political science from Oberlin College in Oberlin, Ohio in 1992, and her J.D. degree from the University of Maryland School of Law in Baltimore, Maryland in 1995.

In 1990, Rawlings-Blake served on the Baltimore City Democratic State Central Committee and as a member of the Young Democrats of Maryland. In 1995, Rawlings-Blake was the youngest person ever elected to the Baltimore City Council at the age of twenty-five. She was admitted to the Maryland State bar in 1996, and the federal bar the following year. She then served as an administrative law attorney with the Baltimore City office of the Maryland Legal Aid bureau and later as a staff attorney for the Maryland Office of the Public Defender in its Southern District. In 1999, Rawlings-Blake was elected to serve as vice president of the Baltimore City Council; and, in 2007, she was elected president. In 2010, Rawlings-Blake stepped in as Mayor of Baltimore after then-Mayor Sheila Dixon resigned. The following year, Rawlings-Blake was elected Mayor of Baltimore. In 2013, she became secretary of the Democratic National Committee; and, in 2015, she was elected president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors. In 2016, Rawlings-Blake stepped down as the Mayor of Baltimore and founded SRB & Associates, a government relations firm. In 2017, she became a senior advisor of Dentons, a multi-national law firm.

Rawlings-Blake served as chair of the Baltimore City Board of Estimates and the Baltimore Metropolitan Council Board of Directors. She co-chaired the UniverCity Partnership Initiative and served as a member of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, the Maryland Association of Counties Legislative Committee, the Economic Alliance of Greater Baltimore, the Maryland Municipal League, the Baltimore City Board of Legislative Reference, and the Maryland African American Museum Corporation. Rawlings-Blake also served on the board of trustees for the Walters Art Museum and St. Mary's College of Maryland, as a delegate for the Democratic Party National Convention and as secretary for the National Conference of Democratic Mayors.

Rawlings-Blake received the Shirley Chisholm Memorial Trailblazer Award from the National Congress of Black Women, Washington, D.C. Chapter in 2009. In 2010, she received the Fullwood Foundation Award of Excellence and was voted "Innovator of the Year" by The Daily Record. She was also voted among "Maryland's Top 100 Women" by The Daily Record in 2007 and 2011. In 2012, she received the National Leadership Award in Public Service from the National Forum for Black Public Administrators. The following year, Rawlings-Blake received the ICONS We Love Award from Baltimore Black Pride, was voted among the "50 Women to Watch" by the Baltimore Sun and received the First Citizen Award from the Maryland State Senate.

Rawlings-Blake has one daughter, Sophia.

Stephanie Rawlings-Blake was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on January 22, 2019.

Related Entries

Western High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Oberlin College [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

B.A.

University of Maryland School of Law [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

J.D.

Maryland Legal Aid Bureau [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1997 to ?]

Administrative Law Attorney

Maryland Office of the Public Defender [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1998 to 2006]

Staff Attorney

Baltimore City Council [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1999 to 2007]

Vice President

Baltimore City Council [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 2007 to 2010]

President

City of Baltimore [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 2011 to 2016]

Mayor

Democratic National Committee [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 2013 to 2013]

Secretary

[EMPLOYEEOf]
[from ? to ?]

SRB and Associates [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 2016 to ?]

Founder

Baltimore City Council [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1995 to 2004]

Council Member

City of Baltimore [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 2010 to 2016]

Mayor

Dentons [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 2017 to ?]

Senior Advisor

Baltimore City Board of Estimates [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Chair

Baltimore Metropolitan Council [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Chair, Vice Chair

UniverCity Partnership Initiative [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Co-Chair

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Member

Maryland Association of Counties [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Board Member, Legislative Committee

Economic Alliance of Greater Baltimore [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Board Member

Maryland Municipal League [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Board Member

Baltimore City Board of Legislative Reference [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Board Member

Maryland African American Museum [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Board Member

[MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Walters Art Museum [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Trustee

St. Mary's College of Maryland [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Trustee

Democratic National Convention [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Delegate

National Conference of Democratic Mayors [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Secretary

United States Conference of Mayors [MEMBEROF]
[from 2010 to ?]

Board of Trustees

United States Conference of Mayors [MEMBEROF]
[from 2015 to 2015]

President

