

Ashley C. Harrington Biography

Ashley C. Harrington serves as a Senior Policy Counsel for the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund (LDF). Founded in 1940 by Thurgood Marshall, LDF is the nation's oldest civil rights law organization. Ms. Harrington's portfolio includes education equity and economic justice policy issues. Before joining LDF, Ms. Harrington worked at the Project on Predatory Student Lending as the Senior Director of Policy and Advocacy. PPSL is the leading legal organization representing students against the predatory for-profit college industry. Prior to PPSL, Ms. Harrington served as a senior advisor to the Chief Operating Officer (COO) at the Department of Education's Office of Federal Student Aid (FSA). She advised the COO on policy implementation, operations, and external communications related to the \$1.6 trillion federal student loan portfolio.

Ms. Harrington has also held key roles at the Center for Responsible Lending (CRL), where she served as Federal Advocacy Director and Senior Policy Counsel. In that capacity, she helped advance fair lending and consumer protection reforms aimed at addressing racial wealth disparities, with a particular focus on student debt. Ms. Harrington has also worked at UNCF (the United Negro College Fund) and in the New York Governor's Office.

A recognized expert on student debt, especially its impact on Black borrowers, Ms. Harrington is the author of numerous articles and reports on the topic. She is a frequent media contributor and has provided testimony before multiple congressional committees.

Originally from Greensboro, North Carolina, Ms. Harrington received her B.A. in Public Policy Analysis from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she was a Morehead-Cain Scholar and a Gates Millennium Scholar. After UNC, she earned her J.D. from New York University School of Law, where she was a Derrick Bell Public Service Scholar and an Articles Editor of the *NYU Law Review*. Upon graduation, she was awarded the Vanderbilt Medal for outstanding service to the law school community. Ms. Harrington is admitted to practice law in New York.