



## **Yulise Reaves Waters, Esq.**

Yulise Reaves Waters, Esq., is the Chief Innovations Officer at Lone Star Justice Alliance (LSJA). An ordained clergy, she also serves as an Assistant Pastor at Abundant Life African Methodist Episcopal Church in Dallas, Texas. Prior to joining LSJA, Waters was an Assistant City Attorney and Lead Community Courts Prosecutor for the City of Dallas where she co-founded the Second Chance Community Improvement Program (SCCIP) in 2014 which became the first-ever felony community court in Dallas County and is believed to be the first-ever young adult court in the State of Texas. Under her leadership, SCCIP was awarded the National Association of Drug Court Professionals' Equity and Inclusion Award for

“excellence and leadership in demonstrating and promoting cultural proficiency in treatment court services.”

Committed to empowering the next generation and creating pathways for opportunities and systems changes, Waters, in partnership with the City of Dallas, and the National League of Cities, led the establishment of the 2024 Dallas Youth Safety Collaborative to redefine community safety and develop a strategic plan for youth safety under the Municipalities Reimagining Community Safety Initiative. Waters also led LSJA's Opportunity Youth landscape analysis, which served as the basis for establishing North Texas' first reengagement center for opportunity youth, with a focus on Justice-Involved Opportunity Youth (JOYs, a term Waters coined), scheduled to launch in 2025.

Waters earned B.A. degrees in English and in Spanish, and a B.B.A. in Organizational Behavior and Business Policy (each magna cum laude), and a Juris Doctorate, all from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. Waters is a certified SAMHSA GAINS Center for Behavioral Health and Justice Transformation trainer in How Being Trauma-Informed Improves Criminal Justice System Responses. For her visionary work and commitment to a greater civic voice and leadership impact for women, Waters holds invitation-only memberships in The Dallas Summit and The Charter 100. Waters is also a member of the Inaugural Emerging Leader Board at the Dedman School of Law, which recognizes graduates over the last twenty years who have “a strong record of leadership in the legal profession and a proven commitment to public service.” Nationally, Waters commentaries on race and justice have been featured on syndicated radio and in major U.S. city newspapers.

A sought-after speaker, preacher, and workshop facilitator, Waters has received numerous honors for her leadership and service including Who's Who in Black Dallas, the City of Dallas' Wall of Honor for meritorious service to the citizens of Dallas, a recipient of the Dallas Business Journal's “40 Under 40” honor, the SMU Black Alumni's History Maker Award, their highest honor, the Outstanding Leader Award of the Prairie View A&M University Ministers' Conference, the Texas Muslim Women's Foundation Peace Champion Award, and Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law's Distinguished Alumni Emerging Leader Award. *D Magazine* has featured Waters among the “78 Women Who Make Dallas Great,” and she is the recipient of the prestigious *ProtectHer* Award which “celebrates individuals, corporations, and other entities who exhibit exceptional support of women and children locally, nationally, or internationally.”

Waters is married to the Reverend Dr. Michael W. Waters, and they are the proud parents of four children: Jeremiah, Hope, Liberty, and Justice.