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More About Tonya McClary

Tonya McClary is a pastor, movement strategist, lawyer, advocate, organizer, and artist. Her life's works are in transformative justice, movement building, criminal justice, policing, healing, civil and human rights. For nearly three decades, Tonya has been realizing her vision. In February 2020, Tonya became the first Police Monitor and Director for the Office of Community Police Oversight for the City of Dallas. In that capacity, she oversaw the eighth-largest police department in the country and was the bridge between the Dallas Police Department and the community of Dallas.

Tonya is a visionary leader and has been called on to be the "first" in several organizations, developing programs and laying the foundation for success. She is a natural coalition builder and strategist, which has enabled her to develop and launch several national and international campaigns for justice. Bringing her lens as a lawyer, movement builder, and activist has given her credibility at the grassroots and grassroots.

Tonya is also a skilled leader with experience in leading staff in multiple places across the country and abroad and mentoring people early in their careers, as well as people who are seasoned veterans in their positions. She is well-versed in developing inclusive and diverse workplaces and ensuring that people thrive in their work. She is a trainer in this area.

Tonya loves people, and this is evident in the initiatives she creates in her work. As an example, while in New Orleans, Tonya started working with a group made up of loved ones who had had a family member killed by the New Orleans Police Department (NOPD). The group had been meeting for several years before Tonya joined the team at the OIPM as a support group for one another. However, when Tonya saw their potential and the perspectives that only a group like this could bring to the policing arena, she worked with the group and helped them develop an organization called Families Overcoming Injustice (FOI). With her guidance and support, the group moved from primarily a support mechanism to also making policy changes within the NOPD in the form of "A Family Bill of Rights". This is a ground-breaking policy that NOPD must follow when interacting with the family of a person who is killed by an officer in the line of duty. It has now become a national model that other cities are adopting.

Tonya's visionary work and expertise have made her a lecturer and trainer worldwide. She has presented her work to international organizations such as the United Nations and worked with dignitaries in other countries on many issues, including prisoner's rights. She is the proud Pastor of Ward Chapel A.M.E. Church in Marshall, Texas.



Tonya has also been featured in a book called *The Hip Hop Generation: Young Blacks and the Crisis in African American Culture*. Her chapter focuses on her groundbreaking organizing work around the country regarding abolishing the death penalty and other criminal justice issues.

Tonya graduated from the University of Baltimore School of Law and is a proud Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc member.