



CNJG

Council of New Jersey Grantmakers'
2019 Conference for the Social Sector

CENSUS 2020

Defining the Next 10 Years

June 11, 2019 | 9:00am - 3:15pm
The Palace at Somerset Park in Somerset, NJ



The Honorable Tahesha Way
Secretary of State, State of New Jersey

During a career that has spanned over two decades, Tahesha Way, Esq. has been a judge, educator, public servant, and has worked for numerous philanthropic causes.

Nominated for appointment by Governor Phil Murphy on December 18, 2017, Ms. Way was sworn in as New Jersey's 34th Secretary of State on February 26, 2018. Prior to becoming Secretary of State, Secretary Way was an Administrative Law Judge for the State of New Jersey. In July 2006, Secretary Way was appointed to the Passaic County Board of Chosen Freeholders and was elected to a full term in November. During this time, she also served as a council

member for the New Jersey Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council. She is the former president of the Women Empowered Democratic Organization of Passaic County, a political organization dedicated to empowering Democratic women by increasing their participation with the goal of achieving greater equality in the political process. She served as a board member for Celebrate New Jersey Now, a social welfare nonprofit that promotes voter engagement and small business growth in the state. Secretary Way is recently a former board member of the Institute for Women's Policy Research, a leading national think tank geared towards advancing dialogue and policy for improving women's lives and their families.

Secretary Way cultivated her commitment to public service while earning her undergraduate degree at Brown University. While attending Brown, Secretary Way served as the Vice President of the NAACP, President of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, taught religious education, and was a

radio announcer for WBRU-FM. Upon graduation from Brown, Secretary Way attended the University of Virginia School of Law at Charlottesville. At UVA, Secretary Way served as a law clerk for the Virginia Legal Aid Society, the United Steelworkers of America, and Polygram. Secretary Way also served as the Social Chair for the Black Law Students Association, acted as a Peer Advisor, a Big Sister with Action for Better Living, and also was a member of the Articles Review Board for the Virginia Environmental Law Journal.

After law school, Secretary Way worked for Court TV providing legal research, editing segments, and writing scripts and trial stories for the Executive Producer of the "Prime Time Justice Show." She then became an associate at the general practice law firm of Steven A. Varano in Totowa and an Adjunct English Professor at Fairleigh Dickinson University. She also taught administrative law and practice at FDU and presented on this topic for the New Jersey Institute of Continuing Legal Education. Afterwards, Secretary Way became special counsel for the Passaic County Board of Social Services overseeing all agency litigation.

Secretary Way has been a member of the New York Football Giants Wives' Organization, the New Jersey State Bar Association, Garden State Bar Association, National Association of Women Judges, Association of Black Women Lawyers, and the New Jersey Women's Lawyers Association. Secretary Way is a mother to four daughters and is married to Charles Way, a former NFL New York Giant who has had a career with the League for over 21 years as a player, and team and league executive. The Way family resides in Wayne and attends the Hawthorne Gospel Church.