



McClain Bryant Macklin Bio

McClain Bryant Macklin, JD, MBA, currently serves as Vice President of Policy and Impact at Health Forward Foundation, a \$890m regional foundation focused on access to healthcare, the social determinants of health, and health equity. In this role, McClain leads Health Forward's grantmaking in its six-county service area and policy and advocacy work on the local, state and national levels.

Previously, McClain served as the Director of Policy and Strategic Initiatives at Health Forward, leading the organization's policy and advocacy work and strategic relationships in Health Forward's service area and nationally. She has also served as the Director of Policy and Research for the Greater Kansas City Civic Council, leading initiatives for business leaders to support equity and inclusion in the Kansas City region, including Kansas City's participation in the Brookings Institute, Kresge Foundation, Living Cities and Urban Initiative led Inclusive Prosperity Partnership, as well as leading the Civic Council advocacy and public policy efforts. McClain also served as the Director of Policy for Mayor Sly James of Kansas City, Missouri. In that role, McClain led the Mayor's policy work on a variety of policy issues, including economic development, housing, health, transportation, technology, innovation, workforce development and entrepreneurship, and worked with city staff and community organizations and national organizations like the United States Conference of Mayors and African American Mayors' Association to advance the policy interests of the Mayor.

McClain also practiced law at Husch Blackwell LLP, where she specialized in Public Policy, Campaign Finance and Ethics, White Collar Litigation and Government Affairs, and Government Affairs. In her practice, McClain counseled clients from local politicians to Fortune 500 companies on navigating the political, legislative and regulatory process. She assisted clients

with forming and managing 527 political committees and 501(c)(4) social welfare organizations, and advised corporate clients on their political activity post-Citizens United.

McClain's involvement in politics started by volunteering on the grassroots level - stuffing envelopes and phone banking during her childhood. McClain has since worked with several local, state and federal campaigns in a variety of capacities, including fundraising and GOTV. While completing her MBA at Florida A & M University, McClain worked for United States Senators Jean Carnahan (D-MO) and Bob Graham (D-FL), and United States Congresswoman Karen McCarthy (D-MO). Prior to law school at The George Washington University Law School, McClain interned for two government relations firms in Tallahassee, Florida and Washington, D.C.

Since law school, McClain not only focused her career in policy, she has invested her free time in policy and the political process, as well. She served as a fellow for the 2013 Presidential Inaugural Committee; served as an election protection challenger on election day in 2008, 2012, 2016 and 2020, ensuring compliance with elections laws at polling places; served on the Democratic National Committee's Youth Coordinating Council as the Midwest appointee, promoting youth engagement in the political process; served as Regional Lead for the National Finance Committee for Generation Forty-Four, the under-40 fundraising arm of Obama for America; participated in the Congressional Black Caucus Institute's Political Education and Leadership Certificate Program; served on then-Mayor-elect of Kansas City, Missouri Sly James' transition team, co-drafting Kansas City's ethics code; served on the National Finance Committee for the Ready for Hillary Political Action Committee, building momentum for the Hillary for America 2016 presidential campaign; served under mayoral appointment to the Kansas City, Missouri Board of Parks and Recreation Commission; and served as the Trustee for Metropolitan Community College Sub-District 2.

McClain's efforts have earned her the recognition of KC Business Journal NextGen, Ingrams 40 under 40, Young Democrat of the Year by the Jackson County, Missouri Democratic Committee, the Impact Award by the George Washington University Black Alumni Association, Rising Star by KC Magazine, and Up and Coming Lawyer by the Missouri Lawyers Weekly. She currently serves on several national and local boards, including the National Black Empowerment Council, National Network for Public Health Law and the Kansas City Economic Development Corporation, Arvest Bank, Alvin Ailey of Greater Kansas City, Kansas City Girls Preparatory Academy, and American Public Square.