

Lezli Baskerville, J.D. is the fifth and first female President & CEO of the **National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO)**, the umbrella membership association for the presidents and chancellors of the nation's 120 historically and predominately black colleges and universities. She is a seasoned lawyer, government relations and equity professional, association and small business senior executive, who is a recognized expert on equal educational and employment opportunity, education access, affirmative action and diversity issues. She is published in the field.

Prior to ascending to the helm of NAFEO, Ms. Baskerville served as Vice President for Government Relations for The College Board. In that capacity, Baskerville was responsible for shaping and advancing the legislative agenda of The College Board, providing leadership to The Board's Upward Bound program and Educational Opportunity Center. She also shaped and directed the preparation of the Board's Supreme Court amicus curiae brief in *Gratz v. Bollinger*.

For ten years prior to joining The College Board, Attorney Baskerville managed a successful private legal and legislative services collective—The Baskerville Group—that provided legal and government relations representation, advocacy and diversity services to higher education institutions and associations, municipalities, elected officials, non-profit associations, small businesses and corporations.

For two decades Baskerville served as outside counsel to NAFEO and played central roles in preparing Supreme Court amicus curiae briefs on behalf of NAFEO, the National Medical Association and National Bar Association in leading educational equity and affirmative cases, such as *Weber*, *Bakke*, and *Fullilove*.

Attorney Baskerville also served as executive director of the National Black Leadership Roundtable, Appellate Counsel at the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, national legislative counsel for the NAACP, and an administrative appeals judge in the District of Columbia.

Attorney Baskerville received a Bachelor of Arts Degree, with honors from Douglass College, Rutgers University and in 1998, was inducted into The Douglass Society (the College's Hall of Fame) in recognition of her unstinting commitment to improving the quality of life of vulnerable populations. She holds a Juris Doctorate degree with honors from Howard University School of Law, and an Honorary Doctorate of Laws from Benedict College. Baskerville is also a graduate of the Executive Management Program for Minority Directors at Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Business. She is the recipient of numerous awards and

citations. She was named by *AOL Black Voices* as one of the nation's "Top 10 Black Women in Higher Education;" and by *Ebony Magazine* in two succeeding years as one of America's Top 100 Most Influential Association Leaders.