

# Alabama State Senator Merika Coleman

(D-19)

First elected as Alabama's youngest state legislator, Merika Coleman has served in public office since 2002. In the House of Representatives, holding a number of leadership roles including Assistant Minority Leader, she worked tirelessly to sponsor and support critical legislation that better the lives of all Alabamians. Coleman is currently the State Senator for Alabama's 19th District.

As a state representative, she was instrumental in creating a 10-member committee for the purpose of restructuring and removing racist language from the Alabama Constitution. Further, she passed 3 anti-human trafficking bills in the 2019 legislative session, alone, and was recognized as "Legislator of the Year" by the Alabama Coalition Against Domestic Violence. On a national level, she's had the privilege of being recognized for her work on behalf of the entire state of Alabama by being named one of 10 individuals submitted by the Southern Crescent Regional Commission Coalition to President Biden as an immediate appointment as Federal Co-Chair for the Commission. Additionally, she proudly served as the Alabama Co-chair for Barack Obama's 2008 campaign and a spokesperson for his 2012 reelection campaign. Coleman has served as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention (DNC) three times, twice for President Obama and, most recently, for presidential candidate Hillary Clinton in 2016.

In addition to holding elected office, she's served in numerous professional development roles across the Birmingham-metro area. Prior to her current position at Miles College and establishing her law practice - the Law Offices of Merika Coleman - she served as Director of Community and Economic Development for Lawson State Community College and Director of Economic and Community Development for the City of Bessemer. Educationally, she is the byproduct of Birmingham schools, having received her Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communication and Masters in Public Administration from the University of Alabama at Birmingham and her Juris Doctorate from the Birmingham School of Law. Additionally, she is a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and the Links, Inc.



Although she wears many hats professionally, she makes it her mission to remain rooted in the community. On a local level, she serves as a Board Member of the Greater Birmingham Ministries and a founding member of the Midfield Voter's League. Furthermore, she is the co-founder of the Derrick Richardson Foundation, a foundation honoring her late husband who passed in February, 2020.

Although she has accomplished a great number of things both professionally and personally, she remains adamant that her life's greatest accomplishment is being a mother. Her two children, Elexia and Xaviar, are both currently pursuing higher education in Birmingham. Her daughter Elexia earned her undergraduate degree at Vanderbilt University in 2019 and is studying to receive her Masters of Public Health at UAB. Her son Xaviar is a junior business major at Miles College. She is incredibly proud of the people they are, and she thanks them for their constant support of her work as both their mother and a servant leader.

