

Biography: Leigh R. Anderson, Ph.D., MPA-IG, CIGA, CIGE



Originally from Saint Louis, Missouri, Dr. Anderson graduated, summa cum laude, from Howard University with two Bachelors of Arts Degrees in Administration of Justice and Spanish. She went on to graduate from John Jay College of Criminal Justice's Masters of Public Administration-Inspector General Program, and then obtained a Ph.D. in Public Policy and Management from The John Glenn College at The Ohio State University. By way of certifications, Dr. Leigh R. Anderson is a Certified Inspector General Auditor (CIGA), a Certified Inspector General Inspector/Evaluator (CIGE), both through the Association of Inspectors General, and a Certified Homicide Investigator through the North East Multi-Regional Training® Police Training Institute.

Dr. Anderson's work lies at the intersection of theory and practice. She is currently the Executive Director of the Police Accountability Team for the City of Cleveland, Ohio. Dr. Anderson came to Cleveland as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Criminal Justice Studies at Southern Illinois University as well as a Contractual Chief of Staff for the City of Oakland Office of the Inspector General under the City's Police Commission. She is also an instructor for the Association of Inspectors General - Inspector General Institute® Certified Inspector/Evaluator Course, certified by the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA). Dr. Anderson consults with a number of police departments to assist with the formulation of concepts, methods, and techniques related to organizational theory and administrative processes for public safety policy creation and implementation. Recently, she led an audit of the City of Gary Police Department in conjunction with the Joyce Foundation and Benchmark Analytics where the overall goal was to assist the leadership of the Gary Police Department with developing a set of policies and procedures that are in line with best practices and the objectives of procedural and organizational justice.

Dr. Anderson is a member of the City of Ferguson Federal Consent Decree Monitoring Team. On April 19, 2016, the City of Ferguson, Missouri and the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) entered into a Consent Decree after a 2015 DOJ

investigation found a “pattern and practice” of unlawful and racially-biased conduct by the City’s police department and court system. As a member of the Monitoring Team, her responsibilities include conducting reviews and audits to determine whether the City, Ferguson Police Department, and the Municipal Court are in compliance with the Consent Decree. Additionally, efforts involve providing technical assistance as needed to guide the City through the complete implementation of the Consent Decree’s three important phases: (1) policy review and revision; (2) training and implementation; and (3) auditing and compliance assessment.

Standing at the nexus of practice and theory, Dr. Anderson has served as a Chief Performance Analyst in the Public Safety Section of the City of Chicago Office of Inspector General where she led and conducted audits and evaluations of the Chicago Police Department (CPD), the Civilian Office of Police Accountability (COPA), and the Police Board (PB) to increase public safety, protect civil liberties, and increase the public’s confidence in the City of Chicago public safety structure.

As a requested lecturer, keynote speaker, and commentator, she was a featured guest on the television news program, “D.C. Breakdown” where she spoke on the topic of *Race and Community Policing* (Air Date: September 3, 2014). In 2018, she was an invited guest lecturer for the Annual African American Heritage Lecture Series hosted by The University of Wisconsin-Whitewater where she lectured on *Critical Issues in Policing: A Discussion of Graham v. Conner and Officer Reasonableness*. In February 2019, she was an invited guest speaker at the United Way of Metropolitan Chicago’s Leadership Series where she had the opportunity to speak with AmeriCorps volunteers from around the Chicago area about dedication to public service and citizen engagement. She has also been a guest panelist for the U.S. Department of State International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) with WorldChicago, which facilitates collaboration between people from all over the world to advance national security, economic development and social justice.

In 2020, she was interviewed by NPR – Saint Louis Public Radio’s Reporter on Race, Culture, & Identity about the survey work she was doing in Ferguson, Missouri. Dr. Anderson has spoken at “The Intersectionality of Criminal Justice Reform: Race & Legislation” Symposium, hosted by the Chicago State Pre-Law Society and at the “Holistic Public Safety: The History of Policing & Our Current State” Webinar hosted by the Seattle Office of Arts & Culture.

Dr. Anderson’s research specialization areas include intergovernmental relations; federalism and public safety; police accountability and oversight; program management; monitoring and evaluation; public management; and leadership and organizational behavior. She is coauthor of the book titled Policing in Natural Disasters (Temple University Press; Fall 2018) as well as coauthor of the publication “Coping through a Disaster: Lessons from Hurricane Katrina,” *Journal of Homeland Security and Emergency Management*: Vol. 8: Iss.1, Article 19. Her research has also been published as a chapter within the Department of Homeland Security sponsored book, *Developing NextGeneration Countermeasures for Homeland Security Threat Prevention* (2016). Dr. Anderson looks forward to continuing to conduct research. She is also currently working

on another book, focusing on case studies detailing best practices for analyzing, researching, and providing recommendations to senior officials regarding the most effective and efficient manner in which to deliver resources and services to public safety organizations while highlighting accountability and oversight principles.

She was humbled and honored to be profiled as an Alumna of the Doctoral Program in Public Policy from the John Glenn College of Public Affairs at The Ohio State University. The Glenn College is the number one ranked public affairs school in the State of Ohio and the number 13 ranked Public Affairs College out of 290 schools in the nation. In October of 2021, she was awarded the Distinguished Young Alumni Achievement Award which recognizes alumni who have demonstrated early distinctive achievement in their public service careers.