

Ganesha M. Martin, Esq.

Biography

Ganesha Martin has served in several positions in Baltimore City government. Most recently she was the Director of the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice (MOCJ). She has overseen collaborative criminal justice efforts that included the Baltimore Police Department, Baltimore State's Attorney's Office, Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention, Department of Justice Civil Rights Division, U.S. Attorney's Office, the judiciary and several community groups.

Martin is a lawyer who led the federal court-ordered Consent Decree reform efforts at the Baltimore Police Department from 2015 – 2018. As Chief of the Department of Justice Compliance, Accountability & External Affairs Division, Martin collaborated with DOJ Civil Rights Division attorneys during a patterns or practice investigation that ultimately led to a Consent Decree. Martin played an integral role on a negotiation team that introduced structural reforms to the Baltimore Police Department in the areas of crisis intervention, relationships with youth, interactions with persons suffering from mental illness, use of force, de-escalation, body-worn cameras, mobile data computer technology, hiring & recruitment, community engagement and officer wellness & early intervention. A pioneer in public-private partnerships that have introduced organizational opportunities for inclusion and equity, Martin is an ambassador who seeks nontraditional relationships to better serve all public safety stakeholders. She has led police reform efforts around the country and currently leads the impact campaign for the documentary *Charm City*, which debuted at Tribeca Film Festival and was short listed for the Oscars and syndicated by PBS. Currently, she runs her own consulting firm.

Martin's current work focuses squarely on uniting communities of color and the police who swear to serve and protect them. Her unique ability to connect with both the community and police before guiding them towards common ground is the hallmark to her success. In addition to Baltimore, she has consulted on consent decree compliance and police reform matters for police departments across the country. An expert on public safety, best practices for building relationships between community and police, she regularly advises nonprofit organizations, real estate developers, tech startups, private corporations, community groups and local governments.

A highly sought-after expert on police reform, Martin regularly speaks on DOJ Consent Decrees, police reform and accountability, and public safety. She's a member of the Council on Criminal Justice, an invite-only, nonpartisan organization and think tank for leaders in the criminal justice field. In 2019 she was one of 40 community policing experts invited to Nairobi, Kenya to share community policing strategies during the Convening on Civilian Police Reform by Open Societies Foundation. She was also awarded their Securing Open Societies Fellowship in 2019. Martin's expert commentary has been featured in The New York Times, The Baltimore Sun, and the Washington Post among others.

Never one to be intimidated by what others see as impossible, Martin is using her talent to move the needle on some of society's most challenging social problems. Her ability to translate both sides of an issue, quickly overcome distrust, and move things forward helps her get things done. Her commitment to use communication as a bridge to unite opposing groups, diffuse conflict, and foster real human connection make her an invaluable asset to anyone seeking to bridge an insurmountable divide. But her fundamental belief in the universal human potential for rehabilitation and understanding pushes her towards her biggest goal to create practical pathways to progress for police and community.

A co-founder of Educated Exposure Foundation, a board member of Year Up Baltimore, Teach for American, Outward Bound and Overcoming Poverty Together, Martin's philanthropic endeavors reflect her commitment to advance social justice issues that directly impact the quality of life for historically underserved communities. A Leadership Maryland and Greater Baltimore Committee's LEADERShip program alumna, Martin has been recognized in recent years by *The Baltimore Sun* in its Top 25 Women to Watch, *The Daily Record* in its Top 100 Women and the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) in its Top 40 Under 40 list.