

Michael T. Sterling currently serves as the Executive Director of the City of Atlanta Workforce Development Agency. Mr. Sterling was appointed by Mayor Kasim Reed and charged with reforming and re-orienting an embattled workforce agency that had come under federal investigation, state sanctions and public criticism for its mismanagement and misallocation of public resources. Michael's top priority is restoring the integrity of the city's workforce system and creating an agency that will provide real and meaningful results for the businesses and job seekers in the City of Atlanta.

Mr. Sterling is an accomplished lawyer, political advisor and proud public servant. As the former Senior Advisor to Mayor Kasim Reed, Michael provided guidance on criminal justice and labor policy, oversaw judicial and commission appointments and managed local, state and federal relations for the City of Atlanta's Mayor. Michael also served as liaison to the United States Conference of Mayors and as the Mayor's designee on the Atlanta Labor Council.

Under Mr. Sterling's leadership, the City of Atlanta established its first Office of Entertainment to support the city's thriving film industry. In 2012, he led the effort on behalf of the administration to reauthorize a one percent Municipal Option Sales Tax (M.O.S.T) to stabilize water and sewer rates and invest in sewer system infrastructure repairs for the City of Atlanta.

Prior to joining the Reed administration, Michael was appointed by Attorney General Eric Holder as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division, for the Department of Justice. At the time of his hire, Mr. Sterling became the youngest federal prosecutor in Chicago. During his tenure at the U.S. Attorney's Office, Michael worked in the Criminal Division where he investigated and prosecuted a variety of criminal and civil cases involving fraud and financial crimes, aggravated identity theft, illegal narcotics trafficking, money laundering, child exploitation, and public corruption. Michael successfully represented the United States on many occasions, including oral arguments before the Seventh Circuit Federal Court of Appeals and trials in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois.

Before his federal appointment to the U.S. Attorney's Office, Mr. Sterling practiced law at Sidley Austin, LLP's Chicago headquarters office. In the General Litigation Group, he handled complex commercial litigation, white collar defense, and class action cases from 2007 to 2009. During that time, Michael also spent a portion of his practice providing pro bono services to indigent defendants in state and federal courts.

Michael graduated Morehouse College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and is a summa cum laude graduate of the Texas Southern University Thurgood Marshall School of Law. He is a 2013 graduate of Lead Atlanta, a 2007 recipient of Atlanta's highest honor, the Phoenix Award, the recipient of the 2013 Urban League Political Advocate Award, a participant in Harvard Kennedy School of Government's Project Municipal Innovation, and has served as a speaker for Harvard Law School's Charles Hamilton Houston Institute Lecture Series. In January 2015, Michael was named to the Board of Trustees for the U.S. Conference of Mayor's Workforce Development Council (WDC). Michael is a native of Beaumont, Texas and has made his home in the Summer Hill community in Atlanta, GA.