

People



**Dr. Cassandra D. Caldwell**

Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer

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vCard

Dr. Cassandra D. Caldwell is Akerman’s Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer, providing strategic leadership in advancing the firm’s DEI efforts. An internationally renowned diversity and inclusion expert, she has more than 24 years of experience guiding corporate organizations and other major institutions to achieving tangible, sustainable results. She works closely with the firm’s leadership to implement programming, initiatives, outreach, and external partnerships designed to propel recruitment, engagement, development, and retention, strengthening Akerman’s foundational commitment to DEI.

Before joining Akerman, Dr. Caldwell served in various leadership roles for a number of companies, educational institutions, and government agencies. She has also held several academic appointments, instructing at the university level on an array of topics including leadership, diversity and inclusion, human resources, organizational theory and behavior, and research methods.

Dedicated to community service, Dr. Caldwell devotes her skills and time to serving in leadership positions in numerous nonprofit organizations, including establishing the Loaves and Fishes Fund that focuses on eliminating food insecurity for people and pets in Florida and North Carolina and the Triangle Area Next Generation of African American Philanthropists Fund.

**Honors and Distinctions**

- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Harvey E. Beech Outstanding Alumni Award
- Profiles in Diversity Journal, CEO Leadership in Action Award
- Profiles in Diversity Journal, Excellence in Innovation Award
- Profiles in Diversity Journal, Diversity Leader Award
- National Congress of Black Women, Wake County Chapter, 21st Century African-American Trailblazer/Sojourner Truth Legacy

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**Education**

Ph.D., The Ohio State University, 2005  
M.P.A., North Carolina Central University, 1998  
B.A., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1994

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**Related Content**

Dr. Cassandra Caldwell Listed Among South Florida’s Most Powerful and Influential Black Professionals  
April 30, 2024

Legacy Magazine Names Akerman Chief DEI Officer  
Dr. Cassandra Caldwell Among Miami’s Most Prominent and Influential Black Women in Business and Industry  
December 19, 2023

Akerman One of the Most Diverse U.S. Law Firms According to Law360 Diversity Snapshot  
August 01, 2023

## Award

- Sodexo, Champion of Diversity Award
- North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics, Keeper of the Dream Award
- North Carolina Central University College of Arts and Sciences, Outstanding Faculty Teaching Award
- Marquis Who's Who, Listed for American Women Executives
- Empire Who's Who, Listed in North Carolina for Women in Education, Leadership
- American Association for Higher Education, Patricia K. Cross Future Leader Award
- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Award

## Affiliations

- Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., South Broward Alumnae Chapter, Member
- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Alumni Admissions Program, Member
- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill General Alumni Association, Member
- Loaves and Fishes Fund, Founding Member
- Triangle Area Next Generation of African American Philanthropists Fund, Founding Member