

# MS. LINDA MARCELLE GADSBY

Endorsed by the Committee on Alumni Trustee Nominations



*"The most important issue faced by the board is the financial stewardship of the university's resources, which is integrally tied to successful progress on issues directly impacting the student experience: recruitment of top faculty to replace large numbers of retirees; increased financial support for students with need, honoring Cornell's founding principles; focus on inclusion and equity; and adherence to campus sustainability objectives."*

**Cornell Degree:** BS ILR 1988

**Other Education:** JD, New York University, 1992

**Please describe the reasons why you hope to serve on the board, the strengths you would bring to the position and the ways in which you are uniquely suited to contribute to Cornell's success.**

*"Service is the rent we pay for the privilege of living on this earth." —former U.S. Representative Shirley Chisholm*

*Service energizes me and gives my life meaning. I am fortunate to have matriculated at some of the best schools in the world. Giving back to those institutions that have shaped me is my honor. It is for this reason that I seek to continue my almost thirty-year relationship with Cornell as a member of its Board of Trustees. I will bring to the board my passion and commitment to educating young people, having spent the past nineteen years of my professional career as an attorney with Scholastic, focused on supporting its mission of literacy for all children and providing intervention tools for struggling learners. I'll also leverage lessons from my experiences engaging with young people. Lastly, I have a successful record of collaborating with Cornell's presidents, deans, administrators, staff, alumni, and students.*

**Cornell will welcome the university's 14th president, Martha E. Pollack, as trustee elections are underway. What do you believe are the three most important issues the president will face during her first year? How can you assist her in addressing Cornell's distinctive challenges as well as broad issues in higher education that impact Cornell?**

*Three important issues President Pollack will face during her first year will be effectuating the "One Cornell" campus integration; creating an inclusive campus environment where all students feel welcome and valued for their uniqueness; and balancing resource constraints with the need for increased student financial aid and support services and financial support for Cornell's goal of being a global leader in academics, research, and engagement. I can assist President Pollack by applying my experience as a leader in a decentralized organization that embarked on a "one company" strategy to help create and implement successful integration plans; utilizing my experience as a vice chair of the South Orange/Maplewood Community Coalition on Race, creating and implementing intentional strategies supporting inclusivity in residential, social, and civic life; and leveraging my relationships across diverse Cornell communities to target the untapped reservoir of unengaged alumni talent and treasure for specific strategic initiatives and long-term re-engagement.*

**In 2017 Cornell will dedicate its new Tech campus on Roosevelt Island. Together with the Ithaca campus and Weill Cornell Medicine, the three campuses will comprise "One Cornell." In your view how does the concept advance our university's future? What challenges do you foresee?**

*"One Cornell," incorporating our New York City Tech campus, Weill Cornell Medicine, and the Ithaca campus provides Cornell with exciting opportunities for the future. Our students are increasingly looking for interdisciplinary study opportunities. "One Cornell" provides students with opportunities to study across colleges AND campuses, attracting those drawn to our idyllic Ithaca campus, with the option to explore the dynamism and opportunities offered by study in New York City. "One Cornell" will provide the university with the opportunity to offer increased dual appointments as it seeks to recruit and retain faculty talent, addressing the ongoing challenge of attracting top junior and diverse talent to Ithaca. It also creates increased opportunities for engagement with the business community, which can be both programmatically and financially beneficial, as well as engagement with our vast metropolitan New York alumni population. The biggest challenge will be successful integration of the campuses academically, operationally, and culturally.*

## Professional Experience:

- Vice President and Deputy General Counsel, Scholastic Inc. 1997–present
- Human Resources Counsel, AlliedSignal Inc. 1995–1997
- Associate Attorney, Kaye Scholer LLP, 1992–1995

## Alumni Service:

- Cornell Alumni Admissions Ambassador Network (CAAAN) Member 1993–present
- Cornell Black Alumni Association (President 1996–1999; Vice-President 1995–1996; Life Member)
- President's Council of Cornell Women (PCCW) Nominating Committee Co-Chair 2016-17; PCCW Member Emeritus 2016
- Industrial and Labor Relations (ILR) Dean's Advisory Council (Member 2000–2005, 2009–present)
- ILR Alumni Association Member

## Prior:

- Cornell Alumni Federation–Cornell Alumni Magazine Governing Committee Member 2005–2010
- Cornell Alumni Student Mentoring Program (Mentor FY 2004–2008)
- Cornell Mosaic Executive Committee Member 2003–2005
- Cornell University Council (CUC) Ex-Officio Member 2013–2015; Administrative Board Member 2003–2004, 2007–2009; Member 2000–2004, 2006–2010, 2012–2016; Member At Large 2004, 2008–2009; Annual Meeting Planning Member 2004
- FRESH Extern Program Sponsor (Multiple Years)
- PCCW–Co-Chair 2013–2015; Fall Meeting Planning Co-Chair 2015; Vice-Chair 2011–2013; University Relations/Grants Member 2002–2011; Member 2000–2015

## Community/Public Service:

- Black Women of Influence (Member 2012–present)
- Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., Montclair Alumnae Chapter (Current Co-Chair of Grants & Sponsorships Committee; Executive Board Member 2010–present)
- Jack and Jill of America, Inc.–Essex Hudson Chapter (Founding Member 2006–present; Teen Advisor 2012–14; Lead Teen Advisor 2014–15, 2016–17)
- Maplewood, NJ Democratic District Leader (2010–2011)
- NYU Law Alumni Association (Current Board of Directors Member; Current Co-Chair Awards Committee)
- NYU Law Alumni of Color Association (Current Advisory Board Member; Past President 2002–2004)
- Practice Makes Perfect, Inc. (Advisory Board Member 2011–2013, Board of Directors Member, Nominating and Governance Chair and Secretary 2014–2016)
- Rewarding Achievement (REACH), Inc. (Board of Directors Member 2009–2013)
- South Orange/Maplewood Community Coalition on Race (Vice-Chair 2007–2010; Past Trustee 2002–2009)
- Young Barbadian Professionals Society, Inc (Founding Member 2006; Past Vice-Chair, Scholarship Committee (Current Member, Chair 2009–2014)

## Student involvements/activities:

- Black Greek Council (Executive Board Member)
- Black Student United (Member)
- Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.–Mu Gamma Chapter (Executive Board Member)
- Minority Industrial and Labor Relations Student Organization (Member)
- Minority Undergraduate Law Society (President)
- Office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs (Judicial Advisor)
- Southside Community Center (Volunteer)
- Student Assembly (Minority Student Representative)
- WHCU (News Reporter; Disc Jockey)

## Additional Information:

- Chambers USA Women in Law, *Outstanding Contributions to Mentoring Award* (2014)
- Consulate General of Barbados at New York, *Pride & Industry Award–Education* (2016)
- Diversity MBA Magazine, *Top 100 Executives Under 50 Award* (2010)
- Girl Scouts of Greater New York, *Woman of Distinction Award* (2012)
- NYU School of Law Black Latino Asian Pacific Law Alumni Association, *Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award* (2015)
- NYU School of Law, *Women of Color Collective Woman of Distinction Award* (2014)
- Savoy Magazine, *Most Influential Black Lawyers* (2015)
- The Network Journal Magazine, *25 Influential Women in Business Award* (2011)
- Young Barbadian Professional Society, *Woman of the Year Award* (2012)