



SHIRLETHIA V. FRANKLIN, ESQ.
White House Fellow (2013-2014)
Placement: United States Department of Justice

Shirlethia V. Franklin, 31, is a Senior Associate with the law firm Alston & Bird LLP in Atlanta, Georgia. She is responsible for managing and defending complex litigation matters and counseling clients in the areas of productliability, toxic tort, mass tort, and medical malpractice law. She currently serves as a member of the firm's Associates Committee and is a former member of the Hiring Committee. She also serves as Vice-Chair of the Defense Research Institute's Young Women in the Law Subcommittee and was the recipient of the Outstanding Subcommittee of the Year award while serving as Chair of the organization's Public Service Subcommittee. She was also selected as a 2012 Volunteer of the Year Honoree by the Truancy Intervention Project in recognition of her commitment to pro bono legal service.

Prior to joining Alston & Bird, Shirlethia served as a judicial law clerk to the Honorable Alexander Williams, Jr., in the United States District Court for the District of Maryland. She received a J.D. from Howard University School of Law (2007), where she graduated in the top ten percent of her class and served as Editor-in-Chief of the *Howard Law Journal*, a Merit Scholar, and president of her first-year class. She was also the recipient of the Olender Foundation Earl H. Davis Scholarship for Leadership and Public Service and the Howard University Graduate Student Assembly Student of the Year and Next Generation Leadership awards. She received a B.A., *summa cum laude*, in English from Tougaloo College (2004), where she graduated class valedictorian, was a Presidential Scholar and Andrew W. Mellon Mays Fellow, and served as President (2003-2004) and Vice-President (2002-2003) of the Student Government Association. Shirlethia is a member of the Atlanta Suburban Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. As a recent cancer survivor, she serves as an active volunteer with local cancer organizations and engages regularly as a motivational speaker to support and encourage cancer patients and their families.

As a visionary, leader, and committed public servant, Shirlethia fully embraces the motto: "The greatest use of life is to spend it for something that will outlast it."