

**Stephanie Finley** is a Louisiana Attorney and Keynote Speaker who is currently Of Counsel with the Law Firm of Ewing Cazayoux and a Board Director for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana. Ms. Finley is the Former United States Attorney for the Western District of Louisiana. Selected by President Barack Obama, she was sworn into office on June 2, 2010 and served until 2017 as the chief law enforcement officer for 42 of the 64 parishes in the state, charged with the prosecution of criminal cases brought by the Federal Government and the prosecution and defense of civil cases in which the United States was a party. Ms. Finley is the first woman in the State of Louisiana appointed to serve as a U.S. Attorney.



Prior to her appointment as U.S. Attorney, Ms. Finley served as the Senior Litigation Counsel for the District, responsible for the training and mentoring programs and served as the Deputy Criminal Chief for the Lafayette Office. In her 21 plus years with the Department of Justice, Ms. Finley prosecuted cases involving white collar crimes, violent crimes, civil rights, environmental crimes, drug trafficking, public corruption and tax evasion. She served as a member of the Attorney General Eric Holder's Advisory Committee from 2011-2013 and served as Co-Chair of the Advisory Committee's Office of Management and Budget, as well as a number of other subcommittees and working groups.

As a Lieutenant Colonel, Ms. Finley had the opportunity to serve as a Judge Advocate at our nation's busiest Air Force bases until her retirement in 2016. She was assigned to Air Force Global Strike Command, 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bomb Wing, Barksdale Air Force Base. She was on active duty at England and Shaw Air Force Base, in Louisiana and South Carolina. During her military career, she performed duties as a hearing officer for criminal cases and administrative discharge boards, as well as working on contract, labor, legal assistance, and military justice issues for active duty, reservists, retirees, and dependents of military families.

Ms. Finley is a *Magna Cum Laude* graduate of Grambling State University where she received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science. She was selected as one of the nation's Distinguished Graduates of the Reserve Officer Training Corps. In 1991, she graduated *Cum Laude* from Southern University Law Center where she received her Juris Doctorate and served as the Editor in Chief of the Law Review. She is also graduate of Squadron Officer School, Air Command and Staff College, and Air War College.

Ms. Finley has been recognized for her longstanding dedication and commitment to the community. She previously served on the Louisiana Committee on Bar Admissions as the Criminal Bar Examiner and as an Assistant Bar Examiner and currently serves on the Testing Committee, is a frequent youth conference lecturer on the local and state level, and has been honored as a "Top 20 Under 40" recipient, one of Lafayette's "Women Who Means Business," a "Person of Excellence" recipient from the National Association of University Women, a Torchbearers' Award recipient, a Southern University Law Center Hall of Fame inductee, a recipient of Grambling State University's Beacon Award for Public Service, a Public Service Award recipient at Alpha Kappa Alpha's Regional Conference, and various other Achievement Awards.