



**Alanah Odoms** is a civil rights leader, mother, and a professional and spiritual support to countless activists across Louisiana and beyond. As the first Black woman to lead the ACLU of Louisiana in its 65-year history, she has answered the call to defend the Constitution and the Bill of Rights by challenging systemic racial and gender injustice.

Through ACLU of Louisiana’s “Justice Lab: Putting Racist Policing on Trial” initiative, Ms. Odoms and her team will lead law firms and law school legal clinics from across the country in representing plaintiffs who’ve experienced racially motivated police misconduct. In 2018, Ms. Odoms led the organization’s successful coalition campaign to overturn Louisiana’s non-unanimous jury law, which dated back to 1898.

Before joining the ACLU in 2018, Ms. Odoms served as the director of the Division of Children and Families, Deputy general counsel of the Louisiana Supreme Court, and special counsel to Louisiana Supreme Court Chief Justice, Bernette J. Johnson. Ms. Odoms co-chaired the statewide effort to reduce incarceration of children through the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI), and was appointed special counsel to Louisiana’s landmark Justice Reinvestment Task Force, which developed the policy recommendations behind the state’s historic package of criminal justice reforms passed in 2017. Recognizing the need to have directly impacted community members at the table, she was the architect of a series of listening sessions which allowed Louisiana citizens to address the task force.

Ms. Odoms is a graduate of Rutgers School of Law-Newark and a Magna Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Rutgers College in New Jersey. Her selection as a scholar in Rutgers’ Institute for Women’s Leadership was a compass in her academic and leadership journey.