

Global Real Estate Summit 2019



Melody C. Barnes

Former Director of the White House
Domestic Policy Council
Co-Founder and Principal
MB² Solutions

Melody Barnes is Co-Director for Policy and Public Affairs of the Democracy Initiative at the University of Virginia. She is a Professor of Practice at the Miller Center of Public Affairs and a distinguished fellow at the School of Law.

Prior to her tenure at the University of Virginia, Ms. Barnes launched MB² Solutions LLC, a domestic strategy and impact development firm. She was also Vice Provost for Global Student Leadership Initiatives at New York University from April 2012 until October 2015.

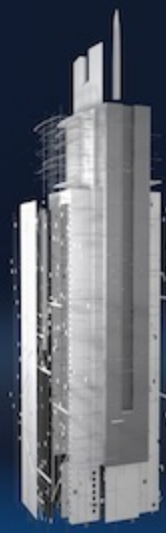
From January 2009 until January 2012, Ms. Barnes was Assistant to the President and Director of the White House Domestic Policy Council. In that capacity, she provided strategic advice to President Obama and worked closely with members of the Cabinet coordinating the domestic policy agenda across the Administration. Under her leadership, innovative new policies, practices and partnerships were initiated to address significant national challenges, including K-12 and post-secondary education, healthcare, urban and rural policy, food and nutrition, and civil and constitutional rights.

From July 2008 until January 2009, Ms. Barnes served as Senior Domestic Policy Advisor to the Obama for America campaign and the Obama-Biden Transition Project. At the Center for American Progress, a progressive research institute and think tank, Ms. Barnes was a Senior Fellow and subsequently, Executive Vice President for Policy from May 2003 until July 2008. From December 1995 until March 2003, she worked for Senator Edward M. Kennedy on the Senate Judiciary Committee, serving as his General Counsel and his Chief Counsel. Ms. Barnes' experience also includes an appointment as Director of Legislative Affairs for the US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission from 1994 until 1995, and Assistant Counsel to the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights from 1992 until 1994. In 1989, Ms. Barnes began her career as an attorney with Shearman & Sterling in New York City.

Currently, Ms. Barnes serves as an Independent Director on the Boards of Ventas, Inc., Booz Allen Hamilton Holding Corporation, the Marguerite Casey Foundation, and Year Up. She is also Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Thomas Jefferson Foundation that owns and operates Monticello, Vice Chair of the advisory board of the Institute for Contemporary Art at Virginia Commonwealth University and Chair of the Aspen Institute Forum for Community Solutions.

Melody Barnes is the co-author of "Community Engagement Matters (Now More Than Ever)," one of the ten most popular articles published by the *Stanford Social Innovation Review* in 2016, as well as "Making Moneyball Work," in *Moneyball For Government*, edited by Jim Nussle and Peter Orszag. She is also a commentator on US domestic public policy, and her numerous media appearances include *This Week with George Stephanopoulos*, *Morning Joe*, *PBS NewsHour*, *Fareed Zakaria GPS*, and *The Daily Show*.

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Ms. Barnes received her law degree from the University of Michigan in 1989. In 1986, she received her bachelor's degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she graduated with honors in History.

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