

## Allison Black Cornelius CV/Biography



Allison Black Cornelius is the President of Blackfish Strategies, formerly Blackboard Consulting. The firm is nationally recognized for executive coaching, executive education, and consulting to nonprofit organizations. Her work includes a professional speaking and training tour that numbers over 100 public appearances each year to private nonprofits, leadership groups, faith-based organizations, students, physicians, law enforcement, counselors, legal professionals, government groups, and business groups nationwide. She also lectures regularly for schools of education, nonprofit studies, leadership studies, women's issues, psychology, and business at some of America's most prestigious colleges. Ms. Cornelius has trained thousands of board members of both nonprofit and for-profit corporations, successfully completed more than 200 nonprofit mergers and turn-arounds, and assisted the policy offices of twenty-six U.S. Governors. She has been recognized as being among the most experienced nonprofit governance consultants in the United States.

She is also well known for her work on public policy relating to families and is regularly called upon to assist community groups in their efforts to establish effective and creative private-public partnerships. She trains non-profit, faith-based, and government groups on board development and private/public economic development initiatives. She has extensive experience and a special interest in working with and training faith-based groups. She assisted with the writing, organization and passage of Megan's Law in thirty-six states (including the original legislation in New Jersey), Alabama's Constitutional Amendment for Victim's Rights, and the legislation that created the Alabama Department of Children's Affairs. She architected the Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives for 26 United States Governors, helped organize Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) programs in three states and has trained and recruited hundreds of families for state therapeutic foster care programs.

Allison began her governance and advocacy career as a volunteer working with abused children in 1988 at an Exchange Club Family Skills Center. She was one of the first graduates of United Way of America's Project Blueprint, a governance training initiative for women and minorities. Allison served as Director of Development for Prescott House (a child advocacy center) and 4 years as Director of Development and Community Relations for Family and Child Services (now Gateway). In 1998 after completing a two-year national speaking tour she relocated her family to Montgomery, Alabama to work for the Children's Trust Fund where she was appointed by the Governor as Deputy Director. This included organizing several special events for the First Lady and General Colin Powell's Alabama's Promise event in Birmingham, Alabama.

In 2000 she returned to consulting full-time in her own consulting company BlackBOARD - - specializing in training government, community and faith based organizations in governance, charitable choice, board development, strategic thinking, fund development, leadership, and social marketing. She is known as one of the country's leading nonprofit turn-around and strategic realignment consultants. Blackboard's name was sold in 2011 and the firm re-launched under the name Blackfish Strategies.

Ms. Cornelius holds several certifications spanning a 28-year career. She is a Balanced Scorecard Master Professional and recently completed the Fundraising Management Certification at the Lily Endowment School at Indiana University. She has a B.S. in Criminal Justice and a Masters in Public Policy. Allison and her husband Jeff live in Vestavia Hills, Alabama with their five rescue dogs. Together they have five children: Lauren, Robin, Anne Campbell, Ross, and Roman. Allison is an avid golfer and self-confessed nonprofit junkie who loves animals, hiking, swimming, and the arts.

Referrals and client testimonies can be viewed at Allison Black Cornelius' Linked In account.

 [View Allison Black Cornelius's profile](http://tinyurl.com/ofv7g7o)  
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