

### Shelia Bryant\_Bio

Attorney and Activist, Shelia Bryant is a proud graduate of Jackson State University with a BS in Mass Communications. She commissioned through Marine Corps Officer Candidate School in 1982 and retired in 2012 as one of only a handful of female African American Colonels in the USMC.

Shelia attended law school while serving in the USMC Reserves and practiced law as a solo practitioner in Oceanside, CA after briefly working as a Deputy DA. She was very active in social justice and community issues.

Mobilized during Operation Iraqi Freedom, Shelia served as the Inspector General for 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, under the leadership of General James Mattis. She deployed to Iraq in 2007 and worked as the Advisor to the Iraqi Ministry of Defense and Minister of Interior to help implement anti-corruption measures and incorporate the rule of law in the Iraqi government. Stationed in the so called “Green Zone”, Shelia was under constant mortar and rocket attack and witnessed the death and injury of many of her colleagues. Her work and dedication to anti-corruption earned her a Bronze Star Medal.

Following her return from Iraq, Shelia accepted a position with the United States Navy as the Inspector General at the Naval Facilities Engineering Command at the Washington Navy Yard and later served as IG for Naval Forces Europe/Africa in Naples Italy. With a passion for social and criminal justice and as a life-long learner, Shelia obtained a Master’s Degree in Public Administration at Harvard Kennedy School with a focus on criminal justice reform. Her intention is to use her skills as a lawyer, a leader and public servant to advance social justice and help improve the quality of life for all our citizens.

She and her family live in Upper Marlboro, Maryland where she is an integral part of her community – a volunteer and activist in Prince George’s County and a member of several national and community organizations such as NAACP, League of Women Voters; Prince George’s, J. Franklin Bourne and Maryland Bar Associations; Progressive Maryland; National Council of Negro Women, and FAMM (Families Against Mandatory Minimums). She is a frequent volunteer with the Pro-Bono Resource Center and Maryland’s Volunteer Lawyer Service. Although her 2020 bid for Congress representing Maryland’s 4<sup>th</sup> District was unsuccessful, she continues to work for the betterment of her community.