



**ATTORNEY CAROLYN HOUSE STEWART**  
**International President**  
**Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.**



Attorney Carolyn House Stewart of Tampa, Florida is the International President of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. Installed in St. Louis in 2010, she is the first president to serve a full term in the Sorority's second century and the first lawyer to head the organization. Attorney Stewart's program theme is *Global Leadership through Timeless Service*. Driven by this thematic call to action, the Sorority is continuing its 104-year-old legacy of providing *service to all mankind*.

Under her leadership, members of the Sorority have logged hundreds of thousands of volunteer hours serving in 964 communities all over the globe where it has chapters. This includes chapters in the United States as well as in Bermuda, Germany, Nassau, Japan, South Korea and on the continent of Africa.

The signature program initiative under Stewart's administration is the Emerging Young Leaders<sup>SM</sup> program. This program targets middle school girls and mirrors the Sorority's mission to cultivate leadership skills in young women so they can better meet the challenges of tomorrow.

At the core of the Stewart administration is health prevention and the eradication of global poverty. Other programs that parallel the spirit of the international president's program include initiatives that revolve around education, economic security, social justice and human rights and internal leadership training for external service.

Attorney Stewart's ascendance to the Presidency of Alpha Kappa Alpha represents a climactic high point in her leadership journey, which includes stellar performances in the legal, professional and sorority arenas.

Her 34-year legal career began after graduating with a Juris Doctor from the University of South Carolina Law Center. She was admitted to the Florida Bar in 1978. She practiced before the US District Courts for the Middle and Southern District of Florida and the US Court of Appeals for the 11<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Circuits. Attorney Stewart is also licensed to practice before the United States Supreme Court.

Attorney Stewart is currently a shareholder in the law firm of Macfarlane Ferguson & McMullen, one of Florida's oldest law firms; she has been with the firm since 1994. She handles cases in the firm's civil litigation, casualty and labor law sections. Her broad-based legal experience includes the defense of personal injury, products liability, premises liability and cases in the area of employment law (Title VII and Sexual Harassment).

She also represents governmental entities and individuals in eminent domain matters.

She has worked as an associate litigation counsel to a Fortune 500 Company as staff counsel to a major insurance company and as a government lawyer. She is a member of the Hillsborough County Bar Association, National Bar Association, American Bar Association, George Edgecomb Bar Association and the Virgil Hawkins Florida Chapter of the National Bar Association.

Attorney Stewart completed a five-year term as a member of the Florida Board of Bar Examiners and is now an emeritus member.

Attorney Stewart's rise to Alpha Kappa Alpha's chief leadership position caps a 40-year record of commitment and service to Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority that began when she was initiated at the University of South Florida in 1972.

After working within her chapter in a variety of leadership positions, in 1998 she was appointed the International Program Chairman under the administration of 25<sup>th</sup> International President Norma Solomon White. Among her many achievements was obtaining \$100,000 in grants from the US Department of Transportation and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to promote "Buckle Up" – vehicle passenger safety and seatbelt use in the African-American community. The Sorority rallied around this cause and was so triumphant in promoting traffic-safety awareness that Alpha Kappa Alpha was credited with saving lives.

After successfully leading the International Program Committee, Attorney Stewart was elected International Secretary in 2002. In 2006, she was elected International Vice President, thereby positioning her to become International President.

Her professional achievements have earned her numerous awards including the 2006 Florida Commission on the Status of Women "Achievement Award," The National Bar Association Presidential Award and the Francisco Rodriguez Award from the George Edgecomb Bar Association.

Attorney Stewart has also received honors for her dedication and outstanding service to Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority including the Margaret Davis Bowen Outstanding Alumni Award for the South Atlantic Region that was named after the Sorority's ninth president. In February 2009, as part of a Black History Celebration, she was honored and recognized for her leadership by women members of the military from MacDill Air Force Base.

The City of Tampa City Council issued Commendations to Stewart in December 2010. Stewart is listed in the 2011 **Strathmore's Who's Who Worldwide Edition** and was honored by the National Association of Outstanding Business and Professional Women. The National Newspaper Publishers Association also recognized her for her leadership in November 2011.

Attorney Stewart is active in a variety of other organizations whose missions illustrate her commitment to bettering the community. She was a life member of the Greater Tampa Urban League and is a current life member of the National Council of Negro Women and the NAACP. She is also a founding board member of the Tampa Organization of Black Affairs.

In addition to her law degree, Attorney Stewart holds a Bachelor of Arts in History and Social Science Education from the University of South Florida.

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