



Jamie R. Williamson
Commissioner

On August 11, 2010, Governor Deval Patrick appointed Jamie R. Williamson as a Commissioner for the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD). Ms. Williamson is in charge of the Springfield office, where she has oversight of the administration, adjudication, and education of civil rights matters for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Prior to joining the MCAD, Ms. Williamson was the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Fair Housing Center, a private non-profit fair housing organization serving central and western Massachusetts. The Center provides extensive fair housing services to potential victims of illegal housing and lending discrimination, as well as valuable education opportunities to the real estate community, housing providers, and social service agencies. As the Center's Executive Director Ms. Williamson was responsible for the development and maintenance of programs in the areas of compliance, enforcement, education and outreach, public policy, consulting, finances, and administration.

In 2005, Ms. Williamson was appointed by the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts to serve on the Access to Justice Commission. This Commission was created by the Supreme Court to provide leadership, vision, and coordination to the multitude of organizations and interests involved in assuring access to civil justice for families and individuals in the Commonwealth.

Ms. Williamson has lectured and conducted seminars on fair housing and civil rights enforcement to public and private housing organizations, various associations in the housing industry, service organizations, real estate professionals, attorneys, and government agencies throughout New England. She is a frequent guest lecturer at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst and Smith College.

In 1995, Ms. Williamson became the first African-American woman to serve on the Pittsfield City Council, and the first African-American to serve at-large. Over the years she has served on the boards of a number of community and charitable organizations including the Red Cross, Berkshire Medical Center, the Rotary, and the Norman Rockwell Museum. She is a graduate of Smith College in Northampton, MA.