



Maryland Procurement ALERT

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Senchal Dashiell Barrolle, Esq. Appointed as First Black Member to MSBCA

In March, the State of Maryland experienced an historic moment that went relatively unnoticed to those outside of the procurement law practice. With little fanfare, the Maryland General Assembly confirmed Governor Wes Moore’s appointment of Senchal Dashiell Barrolle, Esq. to the Maryland State Board of Contract Appeals. When Governor Moore made this momentous appointment, the appointee herself did not realize that the MSBCA would be welcoming its first Black Board Member.

“I was not aware that I was the first Black Board Member until my father told me just after I was sworn in,” Ms. Barrolle said recently. As Ms. Barrolle states it, her father and mentor, Robert Fulton Dashiell, has been practicing procurement law in Maryland “since the beginning” and can name every one of the Members who have sat on the MSBCA since its inception in 1980. None have been Black.

The Moore administration rightfully boasts about this fine appointment. “It is a privilege to have a public servant of Senchal’s caliber serve on the Board that adjudicates bid and contract disputes between State government and contractors doing business with the State.

Our administration is committed to advancing both excellence and equity in state government, and Senchal's appointment is Exhibit A of that commitment," said Secretary of Appointments Tisha Edwards. "Governor Moore is committed to appointing top talent to serve, while also ensuring the state's boards and commissions represent the communities they impact, and that we are leaving no one in Maryland behind."

Ms. Barrolle comes to the MSBCA with a wealth of experience and qualifications for this important position. Ms. Barrolle is a distinguished graduate of The Georgetown Law Center and received her undergraduate degree from Johns Hopkins University. Upon graduation from law school, Ms. Barrolle served as Law Clerk to the Hon. Robert M. Bell, Esq., Chief Judge of the Maryland Court of Appeals (now the Supreme Court of Maryland).

In 2009, Ms. Barrolle joined her father's practice, first as an Associate then as a Partner, handling cases before the Board. Ms. Barrolle has also served on the Maryland Higher Education Commission, giving her a keen understanding of State operations from a public sector perspective.

In relating her past experience to her future aspirations as a Board member, Ms. Barrolle simply stated, "I am excited for the opportunity and hope to bring a well-rounded and impartial perspective to decide matters in the best interest of Maryland taxpayers."

Ms. Bethamy Brinkley, the MSBCA's Chairman, commented that "it is inspiring to see someone of Ms. Barrolle's caliber move from arguing appeals before us to becoming one of us. Having been on the other side of the Bench before becoming a Member provides her, and the rest of the Board, a unique perspective on matters that is truly beneficial to both the State and its citizens. Our Board is now more diverse than ever, and all of us benefit from exposure to different perspectives." Ms. Brinkley expressed further that she is very excited to have Ms. Barrolle on the Board and "eager to put her impressive background and experience to good use. Having just recently issued her first Opinion, she has already proven herself to be invaluable."

The appointment of Ms. Barrolle fits with Maryland's role as a national leader in procurement legislation. Maryland was among the first states to legislate procurement practices to ensure proper spending of public funds and the first state to establish a minority business enterprise program. Ms. Barrolle's presence on this important panel brings a balance and perspective in line with Maryland's position as a leader in the field.

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