



# Brenda Girton-Mitchell

*Diversity & Inclusion, Executive Coach, Transformational Leadership*





**Brenda Girton-Mitchell**  
*President of Girton-Mitchell  
Associates, LLC*

## Bio

Attorney Brenda Girton-Mitchell is the President of Girton-Mitchell Associates, LLC, a consulting firm specializing in providing assistance to organizations in the areas of conflict resolution, workplace diversity and equity, and transformative leadership development.

Girton-Mitchell was appointed by President Obama as the Director of the Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships at the U.S. Department of Education. She was honored to serve there from December 2010 – January 2017.

Prior to joining the U.S. Department of Education, she served the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA as Associate General Secretary for Justice and Advocacy. She led the work of the Washington Office and was responsible for coordinating the social justice and advocacy initiatives on Capitol Hill.

Her professional life also includes working as an elementary school teacher and serving as the President of the Indianapolis Education Association in her hometown, Indianapolis, Indiana; legislative assistant in the United States Senate, legislative counsel for Sears, assistant executive director for Dr. Dorothy

*Brenda Girton-Mitchell is an internationally renowned advocate for human and civil rights, diversity, equity and inclusion in corporate, government, education and non-profit workplaces.*

Height at the National Council of Negro Women, and director of diversity for Mitsubishi Motors of America. She is the Founder and President of Grace and Race Ministries, Inc., a ministry dedicated to promoting leaders to dismantle racism and advance racial reconciliation.

Attorney Girton-Mitchell is an advocate of lifelong learning. She received a Bachelor of Science degree from Ball State University, a Master of Science from Indiana/Purdue University in Indianapolis, a law degree from Chicago Kent College of Law and a Master of Divinity degree from Wesley Theological Seminary.

She is the recipient of numerous awards including the National Council of Negro Women Bethune Recognition Award for An Outstanding Woman in Ministry, the Sagamore of the Wabash Award, the highest award given by the state of Indiana, the John Wesley Award of Merit presented by Wesley Theological Seminary and the US Department of Education MLK Drum Major for Service Award for her extraordinary commitment to community service. She was inducted into the Morehouse College, Martin Luther King, Jr. International Board of Preachers in 2008.





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She maintained her commitment to improving diversity and workplace culture throughout her career. US Department of Education Secretary, Arne Duncan designated her to co-lead his ad hoc diversity and inclusion working group. Secretary Duncan became a visible and vocal advocate for D&I. The working group coordinated with appropriate offices within the agency to host workshops, discussions, and activities designed to improve the culture of the workplace, and demonstrate the commitment to diversity and inclusion.

Girton-Mitchell's tenure at the US Department of Education ended on January 20, 2017. She has started consulting again. She has addressed issues of diversity and inclusion throughout her career. Diversity and Inclusion remain key areas of interest for her. She was a

*Transformation requires teamwork to identify issues, develop change management strategies, and create workplace cultures where everyone is has a sense of being valued and respected.*

teacher leader in Indianapolis, Indiana, prior to law school. She served a legislative counsel and staff ombudsman for the Sears Government Affairs office and as Director of Diversity for Mitsubishi of America. She has assisted with the Institute

as a volunteer in the past and recently joined the advisory board. She served as MC and cofacilitated one of the sessions, "Steps to the Professionalization of D&I" during June 2017 Institute.

In March she was the keynote speaker for the NEXCOM Women's History program. May 7-8 she conducted a 2-day diversity seminar for regional leaders of Volunteers of America. She is presently consulting with Wesley Theological Seminary on ways to increase giving from alumni of color.





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# Professional Experiences

## Education

Master of Divinity, Wesley Theological Seminary

Juris Doctor, Honors, Chicago Kent College of Law

Master of Science, Indiana University/Purdue University

Bachelor of Science, Elementary Education, Ball State University

## Bar Admissions

United States Supreme Court

District of Columbia

Illinois

## Board Leadership

The Institute for Federal Leadership in Diversity & Inclusion

Wesley Theological Seminary

*The Institute provides on-going education and training in diversity and inclusion for the federal government. It's Mission is to preserve and enhance the mission and values of the agency in alignment with D&I ideals and principles.*

## Memberships

National Bar Association

Illinois Bar Association

District of Columbia Bar Association

Washington Bar Association

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Life Member

National Council of Negro Women, Legacy Life Member

Toastmasters International

Leadership Greater Washington

Washington Urban League, Life Member

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority

Metropolitan Baptist Church





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# Innovative Work



## US Department of Education

*Director of the Center for Faith-based and  
Neighborhood Partnerships*

Served as the liaison to the White House Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships (WHOFBNP) to deliver services to those in need in accordance with Executive Order 13559. Provided leadership to the Secretary's D&I working group supporting initiatives to promote a welcoming, respectful and inclusive culture. Hosted community meetings across the Nation to identify and celebrate promising practices in relationship to advancing equal access and educational excellence. Directed the President's Interfaith and Community Service Campus Challenge for the WHOFNP to promote civic engagement and interfaith community service in higher education.



National  
Council  
of  
Churches

## National Council of the Churches of Christ, USA

*Associate General Secretary for Justice and  
Advocacy and Director of the Washington Office.*

Provided leadership for the public policy and advocacy activities of the NCCC.



## Grace and Race Ministries, Inc.

*Founder and President*

Provides education and training to develop and empower leaders to promote racial understanding, justice, and reconciliation. Provides safe space opportunities for critical conversations on race. Works in partnerships with faith-based and secular non-profits.



## Mitsubishi Motors America, Inc.

*Director of Diversity Relations*

Developed and implemented diversity education programs for senior executives to help establish diversity as a business imperative to insure the ultimate success of the company.

Designed programs to create awareness, monitor, prevent and eliminate workplace harassment. Helped establish the Mitsubishi Motors U.S.A. Foundation and served as advisor to the Board of Directors.





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## Mission

Girton-Mitchell Associates, LLC was established as a Maryland LLC (W12500153) on April 29, 2008. The primary focus is to provide leadership coaching and staff development in the midst of cultural and organizational change.

Girton-Mitchell Associates, LLC provides customized workshops and consultations to help manage conflict, strengthen teams and increase productivity. Initial clients included nonprofit associations and faith based organizations such Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Xi Omega Chapter, AARP, Church World Service, Inc., Metropolitan Baptist Church, Progressive National Baptist Convention, National Black Nurses Association and the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA.

## Training

Girton-Mitchell is described as a visionary, results-oriented senior level administrator. She is highly recognized as an effective advocate

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other would confide  
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workplace and  
beyond.*

for human and civil rights, diversity, equity and inclusion in corporate, government, education and non-profit workplaces. As a skilled bridge builder and relationship manager, she possesses exceptional communication

and facilitation skills, with expertise in conflict resolution, team building, negotiation, and public speaking.

In her own words “I was inspired to begin a consulting practice after years of working in various fields, from education, government, faith-based and secular nonprofit organizations and corporations. In every organization, there was a need for those working together to develop mutual respect and trust. In every position, I have ever held, I had the distinction of being a person in whom other would confide about problems in the workplace and beyond. The most frequent concern voiced was that of not feeling respected/recognized as a part of the team. The lack of respect and recognition was usually grounded in issues of race or gender, which led to dissatisfaction, disconnection and disruption in the workplace.”





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### **Areas of Expertise**

Community Engagement  
Conflict Resolution  
Critical Conversations  
Diversity and Inclusion  
Leading Change  
Leadership Development  
Motivational Speaking  
Social Justice Advocacy,  
Strategic Partnerships

### **What We Do**

We offer consulting and facilitation services for:  
Diversity Equity and Inclusion Training  
Conversations on Race  
Leadership Development  
Community Engagement  
Team Building  
Strategic Partnerships



# Speaking Engagements

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Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

George Washington University Interfaith Baccalaureate

Hampton Ministers' Conference

Indianapolis Public Schools, MLK Day

Jack and Jill, Inc. Teen Leadership Summit

Morehouse School of Religion, C.D. Hubert Lecture

Ms. Black USA Pageant Keynote

NAACP Awards Banquet, Gary Indiana Chapter

National Black Nurses Association

National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA

National Council of Negro Women, Inc.

NEXCOM Women's History Month

The Institute for Federal Leadership in Diversity- Facilitator

Volunteers of America, Inc. Northeast Region Workshop Leader

Wesley Theological Seminary and Grace and Race Ministries Workshops

Wilberforce University Commencement Speaker





# Contact Information

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## **Girton-Mitchell Associates, LLC**

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