



Cleveland State University



VANESSA L. WHITING, Esq. was appointed to the Cleveland State University Board of Trustees on September 20, 2020 by Governor Mike DeWine for a term ending May 1, 2029.

Ms. Whiting is the President of A.E.S. Management Corporation, a Popeyes Louisiana Kitchen franchisee in Northeast Ohio. A.E.S. Management Corp. employs over 350 Cuyahoga and Summit County residents at its thirteen (13) Popeyes locations, giving workforce experience to those in Northeast Ohio.

Ms. Whiting is also an attorney and has extensive experience in economic and community development law, real estate law, tax credit law, public finance and small business enterprise law. Ms. Whiting has frequently served as counsel to lenders, developers, and business owners. She has also served as both bond and underwriter's counsel. She has served as a consultant on numerous low income housing tax credit projects, conventional market rate housing projects and commercial retail developments. She has been recognized by Northeast Ohio Live as one of the top 100 attorneys in the State of Ohio. Ms. Whiting is also a real estate developer and is currently working on several development projects.

Ms. Whiting was an associate at the law firms of Bryan, Cave, St. Louis, Missouri and at Calfee Halter, Cleveland, Ohio. She established her own firm in 1995 and practiced as a sole practitioner until 2007 when she became a partner at the law firm of Roetzel & Andress, Cleveland. She reestablished her firm in 2011 and continued to assist her clients in revitalizing Cleveland's neighborhoods. While practicing law, Ms. Whiting was licensed in the states of Missouri, Ohio, Illinois and the District of Columbia. She still maintains her Ohio license.

Ms. Whiting holds a Bachelor of Science in public policy from Duke University where she graduated with honors, a Master of Science in urban affairs and public policy from Southern Illinois University, where she graduated with honors and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Illinois.

Her interests include social justice, minority business development, community development, the arts, politics, education and health care.

Ms. Whiting formerly served as Board of Chair of the Metro Health System and is currently Vice Chair. She has also served as Chair of the Diversity & Inclusion Committee, the Legal and Government Relations Committee, the Governance Committee and Board Secretary. In 2012, Ms. Whiting successfully led the effort to establish a diversity and inclusion Board Committee at Metro Health.

Ms. Whiting is currently the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the United Way of Greater Cleveland and former Chair, Community Investment Committee.

Ms. Whiting is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Greater Cleveland Partnership, the Board of Directors of Cleveland State University, and the Board of Director of Olympic Steele, AES Management Corp. and Ohio Franchise Management Corp.

Previously she served as the Vice President of the Cleveland Housing Network Board of Trustees, Board Member of Cleveland Neighborhood Progress and President of New Village Corporation. Ms. Whiting is a former Co-Chair of the Economic Development Committee of the Cleveland Branch of the NAACP, a former Board Member of the Cleveland Branch NAACP and a life member of the NAACP. She has served as a Board member of Playhouse Square, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, and the Cuyahoga Community College Foundation Board of Trustees.

Ms. Whiting is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Alpha Omega Chapter, The LINKS, Inc., Cleveland Chapter, the Northeasterners and the Cleveland Jack and Jill Associates Chapter.

Ms. Whiting is an elder at her church, Fairmount Presbyterian Church in Cleveland Heights, and has served on its Session and has served as the Clerk of Session. She has chaired the Mission Committee, served as a mentor, is currently Chair of the Personnel Committee. She has taught Sunday School and chaired the Faith Formation Committee.

Ms. Whiting has received numerous awards for her civic engagement and leadership including but not limited to The Norman Minor Bar Association Trailblazer Award, The Cleveland YWCA Women of Achievement, 2021, the Maltz Museum Heritage Award, 2021, Black Professional of the Year 2019, and inclusion in the Women of Color Hall of Fame.

She is a mother of three adult children, Taylor, Lorin and Anthony Smith, II.