

Jennifer Jones Austin, Esquire

CEO and Executive Director of FPWA



BIOGRAPHY

As CEO and Executive Director of FPWA, an anti-poverty, policy and advocacy organization with 150 members and partners, Jennifer Jones Austin has led and secured monumental changes in social policy and law in New York State to strengthen and empower the disenfranchised and marginalized.

Prior to joining FPWA, she served as Senior Vice President of United Way of New York City, Family Services Coordinator for Mayor Bloomberg, Deputy Commissioner for the NYC Administration for Children's Services, Civil Rights Deputy Bureau Chief for Attorney General Eliot Spitzer, and Vice President for LearnNow/Edison Schools.

Jennifer co-hosts the award winning WBLS "Open Line", weekly guest hosts the nationally syndicated radio program, "Keep'n It Real" with Rev. Al Sharpton", and is a monthly contributor on the "Karen Hunter Show".

She is the author of *Consider It Pure Joy*, a harrowing account of her battle with a sudden, life threatening illness, and the power of faith and community to transform desperation into joy. Jones Austin has chaired several influential boards and commissions, including the Mayoral Transition for Bill de Blasio, the NYC Procurement Policy Board, and the NYS Supermarket Commission. She currently serves as a Board Member of the National Action Network, the NYC Board of Correction, and the Feerick Center for Social Justice.