



Dr. Basil Smikle Jr. has been political strategist and policy advisor for almost 20 years with local, national and international clients. He lectures at Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs and Teachers College and was most recently the Distinguished Lecturer of Politics and Public Policy at the City University of New York's School of Labor and Urban Studies. He holds a PhD in Politics and Education from Columbia University. A familiar face on MSNBC, CNN, NY1 and other media outlets, frequent appearances highlight his insights into electoral politics and governance.

In 2015, Basil was appointed by Governor Andrew Cuomo and Former Governor David Paterson to serve as the Executive Director of the New York State Democratic Party where he was the "second highest ranking Democrat" in the State. Basil worked closely with elected officials and community leaders to manage electoral and fundraising strategies for the State. He recruited candidates for political office and worked closely with the Democratic National Committee to create grassroots mobilization programs and act as a Party surrogate during the 2016 cycle. Under Basil's leadership, Democrats flipped county legislatures, and county-wide seats - laying the foundation for returning the State Senate to full Democratic control in 2018 and flipping three Congressional seats. During his term, the Party also supported resolutions to strengthen tenant laws, support immigrants and call on the IDC to disband or re-caucus with Democrats.

Recognized as a staunch advocate for public service and education equity, he is part of the next generation of thinkers and advocates. More than a decade ago, with his close friend Rodney Capel, Basil was featured in the L.A. Times as "Harlem's New Political Elite". United States Senator Cory Booker called him a "much sought-after consultant". Rev. Al Sharpton called him an "impressive speaker"; Former Governor David Paterson noted that Basil is a "national caliber political operative".

He gained national attention for his reforms in education and government. An early profile in the Wall Street Journal led to a feature in a New York Magazine cover story on the next generation of African American leaders. The New York Daily News called Basil a "fresh thinking...school reformer". The New York Post "enthusiastically" said "New York needs such vibrant leadership".

Basil was a senior aide to Hillary Rodham Clinton during her first campaign for Senate and later on her Senate staff. Mrs. Clinton called Basil a "key advisor and tremendous public servant...who makes sure all voices are heard". Ron Kirk, the former Mayor of Dallas and President Obama's former US Trade Representative, noted that Basil can "negotiate the politics of any community and knows how to marry it with sound public policy".

He graduated with a Bachelor of Science from Cornell University in Industrial and Labor Relations and received a Master of Public Administration degree from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs.

A life-long New Yorker and raised in the Bronx by Jamaican immigrants, he is inspired by his father, a retired textile worker, and mother, a long-time public school special education teacher.

Basil is a proud member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., Prince Hall Free and Accepted Masons, and 100 Black Men of New York where he helped start the Eagle Academy in the Bronx which has grown to 6 schools in New York and New Jersey. He is also a founding

Board Member of the Harlem Hebrew Academy Charter School and sits on the Board of the NYC Center for Charter Excellence.