

Yvonne Scruggs-Leftwich, Ph.D

Dr. Yvonne Scruggs-Leftwich is a professor, author, public scholar, policy analyst, community activist, corporate Trustee and national spokesperson on behalf of creative leadership and urban politics. As Professor, National Labor College - George Meany Campus, she applies her research and leadership skills and teaching experience to facilitate adult education. She also has a long history as Professor at several nationally recognized universities, including the University of Pennsylvania; Howard University; George Washington University and SUNY College at Buffalo. For 10 years, she served as executive director/COO of the Black Leadership Forum, Inc., a 29-year old confederation of the top national civil rights and service organization leaders.

She is the 2007 winner of the Washington-Baltimore Newspaper Guild's FRONT PAGE AWARD - the Bernie Harrison Memorial Award for Commentary. Her most recent book, SOUND BITES OF PROTEST, was released in July 2008, by Third World Press of Chicago, Illinois.

Yvonne Scruggs-Leftwich earned a Ph.D. in City and Regional Planning and Urban Policy from the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia; a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs of the University of Minnesota; and a Bachelors Degree in Political Science, with honors, from North Carolina Central University in Durham. She was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to study political science at the Free University in Berlin, Germany and at the Deutsche Hoch Schule fur Politik and subsequently, a study scholarship for Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) in Washington, D.C.

She served as the Deputy Mayor of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; New York State's Housing Commissioner in Governor Mario Cuomo's Cabinet; HUD's Deputy Assistant Secretary and simultaneously, the Executive Director of President Carter's Urban and Regional Policy Group which issued America's first formal National Urban Policy; and director of the Urban Policy and National Policy Institutes, at the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, in Washington, D.C. Dr. Scruggs-Leftwich co-owned with her husband, Rev. Edward V. Leftwich, several non-depository banking corporations in New York State for several years, and also worked on Wall Street as a consulting vice president in municipal finance.

Dr. Scruggs-Leftwich's voluntary service currently includes: Vice-Chair, the Milton S. Eisenhower Foundation's Board of Trustees; Trustee, the national Fulbright Association; Member, Verizon's National Consumer Advisory Board; Member At Large, Black Leadership Forum, Inc.; Member At Large, National Coalition for Black Civic Participation, Inc.; Executive Committee and Trustee, Cornerstone Equity Advisors; and Executive Director, Center for Community and Economic Justice, Inc.'s Sojourner Truth Forum for Unalienable Rights.

She regularly is quoted in newspapers around the country and has been profiled in The New York Times, The Washington Post and other publications. She has been a commentator on the NewsHour with Jim Lehrer, MSNBC and CNN and appears frequently on many other public affairs and network news broadcasts where she focuses on the political process and on civil and women's rights. Dr. Scruggs-Leftwich has written over 100 publications and her op-eds have been published in the Chicago Tribune, Los Angeles Times, Newsday, Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Miami Herald, New York Daily News and many other weekly newspapers. She writes syndicated commentary for the national e-media publication Women's E-News.

She has been lauded as a "History Maker" who is "... one of the most important intellectual leaders of the modern civil rights movement." She is listed in Who's Who in America; Who's Who Among Black Americans; Who's Who Among American Women; and in the seminal Biography of African American Women. She and her husband, Rev. Edward V. Leftwich, are parents of three daughters and one son, and have three grandsons. Her specialties include urban planning and policy; public administration and governmental behavior; civil rights advocacy; women's empowerment; labor education and leadership development; strategic planning; and, corporate governance.

Dr. Scruggs-Leftwich's previous widely acclaimed book, Consensus and Compromise: Creating the First National Urban Policy Under President Carter, was released by University Press of America/ Roman Littlefield Publishers in Spring 2006. She was born in Niagara Falls, New York and educated through elementary and High School in Buffalo, New York. Currently, she lives in St. Petersburg, Florida and works in Silver Spring, Maryland. Her Web Site is www.yscruggs.com.