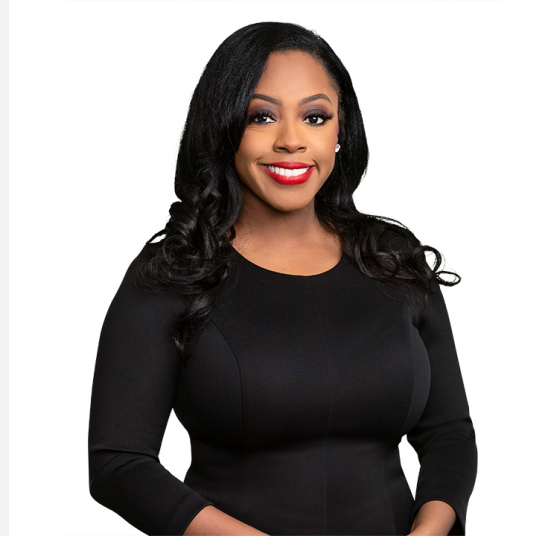


# BLANKROME

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Krystal leads Blank Rome’s diversity, equity, and inclusion (“DEI”) efforts, with a focus on increasing diversity; fostering and inculcating an inclusive culture where all of Blank Rome’s workforce experiences a sense of belonging, community, and connectivity; establishing fair and equitable processes and policies that advance DEI; coaching on DEI; serving as a DEI brand ambassador, internally and externally; consulting clients on DEI plans, initiatives, and programs; aligning Blank Rome with the communities we serve; and advocating for Blank Rome’s diverse population. With an aptitude for relationship building and a holistic, data-driven approach to DEI, Krystal is responsible for developing, implementing, monitoring, and measuring progress of Blank Rome’s DEI strategy, and working collaboratively with the Firm’s Diversity and Inclusion Committee, affinity groups, Firm management, and others.

Leveraging her unique work experience as a former practicing corporate attorney and general counsel, DEI strategist, business development leader, and consultant, Krystal has successfully transformed, enhanced, and grown business for various organizations by introducing creative business solutions to address corporate pain points. Most recently, Krystal served as a senior legal placement consultant at Axiom, the world’s largest and leading contingent legal talent company with 2,000+ lawyers and 17 offices across three continents, where she advised general counsel across the country on workforce transformation and augmentation, talent management, cost containment, and diversity and inclusion. At Axiom, Krystal co-founded and co-chaired Axiom’s Black Affinity Group, Blaxiom, leading the charge as the first affinity group in Axiom’s history to develop a strategic roadmap and work closely with the executive leadership team on its implementation. She also served as the director of strategy and operations for the Diverse Attorney Pipeline Program (“DAPP”), a national nonprofit committed to the development and placement of first-

year, women of color law students. Prior to Axiom and DAPP, Krystal served as the chair of DEI and a regional director of business development at Bliss Lawyers, a majority-woman owned, NewLaw secondment company, which was acquired by Axiom in February 2020.

Prior to joining Bliss Lawyers, Krystal was a business development manager and diversity and inclusion business liaison at Norton Rose Fulbright, an Am Law 100 law firm and the third largest law firm in the world with more than 3,200 lawyers in 52 offices worldwide. In that role, she worked with firm leadership and attorneys throughout the United States as well as internationally in Canada, London, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, France, Australia, South Africa, The Netherlands, and Caracas.

Prior to Norton Rose Fulbright, Krystal was general counsel and senior vice president of business affairs at Music World Entertainment, the record label home to Beyoncé and artists from BET's Sunday Best (a reality television music singing competition series), where she served on the executive leadership team. Krystal managed a diverse and cross-functional team, oversaw revenue generating projects, and served as lead on significant transactions, including licensing, publishing, endorsement, joint venture, streaming, and marketing deals. She also developed and managed the company's business strategy, with a focus on restructuring and reorganization, business development, talent development and management, strategic partnerships, market development, innovation, and diversity and inclusion. While at Music World, she managed a rotational diversity internship program for law students and business students of color.

Earlier in her career, Krystal was a corporate attorney for a boutique law firm in Houston, Texas, and was the event and partnership manager at Management Leadership for Tomorrow, a nonprofit organization focused on changing the face of leadership in the private and social sectors by providing high-achieving minority high school students with a winning professional playbook, one-on-one coaching, and door-opening relationships that accelerate their career paths from graduating college to earning advanced degrees and senior leadership positions.

Krystal has held several esteemed leadership positions for professional organizations focused on the development and advancement of women and people of color, including currently serving as executive director of The Downtown Group and previously serving as a board member of the Houston Association of Women Attorneys and a director of the State Bar of Texas African American Lawyers Section. She is also active in the community, serving as a strategic adviser to the American Heart Association – Women of Impact, the former co-chair of the young professional women's group for the American Heart Association and the Heart Ball, and a volunteer for Habitat for Humanity. She is a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated.

Krystal has been a contributor to *ACC Docket*, an award-winning legal publication for in-house counsel, covering modernization and transformation of the legal industry, and is a recurring speaker for the National Bar Association – Women

Lawyer's Division, with topics including personal branding, workforce transformation, and career advancement. In March 2019, she launched a personal branding initiative for Black women attorneys at the National Bar Association's Mid-Year Conference. Through this initiative, she has coached women in Chicago, Dallas, Houston, Los Angeles, New York, North Carolina, San Antonio, and Washington, D.C., on strategies to develop and expand their personal brand.

Krystal earned a B.S. in Social Justice, with a minor in English, from Texas Southern University, and her J.D. from Texas Southern University's Thurgood Marshall School of Law, one of the most diverse law schools in the country. She received her diversity and inclusion certification from Cornell University.

## **Education**

- Texas Southern University, BS
- Thurgood Marshall School of Law, JD
- Cornell University, Diversity and Inclusion certification