

Ray B. Shackelford Elected as President of National Urban League Young Professionals

Native Houstonian Takes the Helm as NULYP Celebrates 20 Years of Making an Impact

By Jeffrey L. Boney
NNPA Newswire
Contributor

When it comes to voting, it is often said that “every vote counts” and that adage really rang true for Houston native Ray B. Shackelford, as he was recently elected as the 10th National President of the National Urban League Young Professionals (NULYP) by a narrow ONE vote margin at the National Urban League (NUL) Annual Convention in Indianapolis. Again, every vote counts!

NULYP is a National Urban League volunteer auxiliary that targets young professionals from the ages of 21 to 40, who seek to empower their communities and change lives through the Urban League Movement. NULYP’s mission is to support the Urban League Movement

through volunteerism, philanthropy and membership development.

Since its inception, NULYP has worked to support their Affiliates and to develop a leadership pipeline for the NUL. Over the years, the NULYP’s role has expanded to a point where they have provided leadership in every space, while helping to bridge generational gaps and solve problems that have plagued the African American community for decades.

Shackelford was elected to serve as the new leader of NULYP, which was ironically unveiled at the NUL Annual Conference in Houston back in 1999.

Fast forward to 2019, and we find a Houstonian at the helm of the very organization that was launched in his home city of Houston exactly twenty years ago.

“This all still seems surreal,” said Shackelford. “I

am humbled and thankful for this awesome responsibility.”

It is also fitting that Shackelford will be at the helm of leading the organization, as the NUL Annual Conference will be returning to his hometown of Houston in 2020.

Shackelford was born and raised in Houston’s Third Ward, where he spent his entire childhood attending Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church. After graduating from Lamar High School, he left Houston to attend Morehouse College, where he graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration, concentrating in Finance.

Upon returning to Houston, Shackelford became a member of the Houston Area Urban League for Young Professionals (HAULYP) and was eventually elected to serve as its President.

As President, he steered HAULYP to an

intense focus on service programming and connecting with the community. His impact in that role led to him being named as the National President of the Year. Shackelford went on to serve as Southern Region Vice President of NULYP before recently being elected to serve as the 10th National President.

Recognized as a leader in his community, Shackelford was nominated by the Mayor of Houston and confirmed by the Houston City Council to serve on the city’s Independent Police Oversight Board (IPOB), making him one of the youngest members to serve on that board in the city’s history.

In this role, Shackelford reviews investigations conducted by the Houston Police Department’s Internal Affairs Division when officers use force on civilians or discharge their firearms.



PHOTO: NAACPORG

After 22 years at Pfizer, and a lifetime of community and social activism, Boykin-Towns has taken her talents to Sard Verbinen & Co. (SVC).

After reviewing those cases, Shackelford and his peers make recommendations to the Mayor, Chief of Police, and the Public Safety representative for City Council.

Not only is Shackelford an Eagle Scout, he is also a proud member of the Rho Beta Beta Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., as well as a graduate of the Houston Black

Leadership Institute Class II, National Urban League Emerging Leaders Class VII, National Urban League Advocacy Certificate Program, Acceler8 Cohort 3, United Way Project Blueprint Class XXXV, and Leadership Houston Class XXXVII.

He is also the proud father of a nine-year old

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Pierce County Finance
950 Fawcett Avenue, Ste 100
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