

## Contact

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(LinkedIn)

## Top Skills

Fundraising

Constituent Services

International Business Development

## Honors-Awards

Distinguished Alumni

Distinguished Alumni

Hall of Fame

## Publications

21st Century Innovations in Energy:  
An Equity Framework

# Donald Cravins, Jr., Esq.

Under Secretary at U.S. Department of Commerce for Minority  
Business Development

Washington, District of Columbia, United States

## Summary

Donald "Don" R. Cravins, Jr. serves as the first Under Secretary of Commerce for Minority Business

Development where he leads the Minority Business Development Agency in its service of the nation's 9.7 million minority business enterprises. He was unanimously confirmed by the United States Senate on August 4, 2022.

Don holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Louisiana State University and a Juris Doctor from the Southern University Law Center, where he served on the Law Review and the Moot Court Board. In 2004, he was elected to the Louisiana House of Representatives and in 2006 elected to the Louisiana State Senate. While in the Legislature and following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Don served as a voice and champion for business owners, assisting with navigating the challenges related to recovery and rebuilding. In January 2009, Don left the Legislature to serve as Staff Director and Chief Counsel for the U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, where he played a vital role in the successful passage of the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010. In January 2013, he became the Chief of Staff to U.S. Senator Mary L. Landrieu of Louisiana. At that time, he was the only African American Chief of Staff in the United States Senate.

Since leaving the United States Senate in 2015, Don has served in key executive positions for some of America's largest non-profit and for-profit corporations, including the National Urban League where he most recently served as its Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. As one of the Nation's preeminent Civil Rights Organizations, Don led the National Urban League's entrepreneurial initiatives and spearheaded its corporate Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion program.

In addition to serving as Under Secretary, Don is a United States Army Major in the District of Columbia Army National Guard Judge Advocate General Corps. His awards and military decorations include two Meritorious

Service Medals, three Army Commendation Medals, the Air Force Commendation Medal, and the Army Achievement Medal. He is also a Life Member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., a Life Member of The Rocks, Inc., and a member of the 100 Black Men of Prince George's County.

His honors include induction into the Southern University Law School Hall of Fame, recognition as a Distinguished Alumnus of Louisiana State University, and he was named Advocate of the Year by the National Bar Association.

Under Secretary Cravins and his wife, Yvette Puckett Cravins, Esq., have three children and reside in Maryland.

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## Experience

United States Department of Commerce

Under Secretary at U.S. Department of Commerce for Minority Business Development

August 2022 - Present (1 year 1 month)

Washington, United States

District of Columbia U.S. Army National Guard

Judge Advocate - Major

August 2015 - Present (8 years 1 month)

Washington D.C. Metro Area

Currently serving as the Command Judge Advocate for the 74TH Troop Command, District of Columbia National Guard.

National Urban League

Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer

April 2021 - August 2022 (1 year 5 months)

New York, United States

George Washington University

Adjunct Professor School of Professional Studies

August 2010 - August 2022 (12 years 1 month)

Washington, District Of Columbia

Charter Communications

Vice President, Policy & External Affairs

February 2019 - April 2021 (2 years 3 months)

Washington D.C. Metro Area

Responsible for building partnerships with external stakeholders and sharing of mutually beneficial policy initiatives.

### National Urban League

SVP for Policy/Executive Director of the Washington Bureau

August 2015 - February 2019 (3 years 7 months)

Washington D.C. Metro Area

Don Cravins, Jr. served as the National Urban League's Senior Vice President for Policy and Executive Director of the Washington Bureau. Cravins led the development of the National Urban League's policy, research, and advocacy agenda, while expanding the organization's impact and influence inside the Capital Beltway.

### The George Washington University Graduate School of Political Management

Adjunct Professor

January 2017 - January 2018 (1 year 1 month)

Washington, District Of Columbia

Instructor of Judicial Politics

### Louisiana Army National Guard

Judge Advocate

July 2011 - August 2015 (4 years 2 months)

Jackson Barracks, Louisiana

Trial Defense Services

### AIPAC

Deputy Political Director

January 2015 - July 2015 (7 months)

United States

### US Senator Mary L. Landrieu

Chief of Staff

January 2013 - January 2015 (2 years 1 month)

Was responsible for the administrative and legislative responsibilities of the Senator's office and created initiatives to assist Louisiana's small and minority business communities.

### US Senate Committee on Small Business & Entrepreneurship

### Staff Director and Chief Counsel

January 2009 - January 2013 (4 years 1 month)

Oversaw all activities of the Committee, vetted presidential nominees, developed small business policy and legislative initiatives and managed a staff of 30 employees. Played a vital role in the successful passage of the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010.

### Louisiana State Legislature

5 years

#### State Senator

2006 - 2009 (3 years)

In 2004, elected to the Louisiana House of Representatives. At that time, he and his father State Senator Don Cravins, Sr., made Louisiana history by becoming the only father and son to serve in the Louisiana Legislature at the same time. In 2006, Don was elected to the Louisiana Senate for the seat vacated by his father. During his tenure in the Senate, Don served as Chair of the Insurance Committee and Vice Chair of the Retirement Committee.

#### State Representative

2004 - 2006 (2 years)

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## Education

### Southern University Law Center

JD, Law · (1995 - 1998)

### Cornell University

Diversity and Inclusion Certificate, Intercultural/Multicultural and Diversity Studies · (2021)

### The Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School

Military and Strategic Leadership · (2011 - 2012)

### Louisiana State University

BS, Political Science · (1990 - 1994)