

Traci Blackburn joined the Los Angeles County Public Defender's Office in 1995. During her 28 years as a deputy public defender, Ms. Blackburn has handled a variety of cases from simple misdemeanors to complex violent felonies. She spent most of her trial career in the Compton Branch as a misdemeanor, juvenile and felony attorney. She also served as the Deputy-in-Charge of the Compton Branch, and most recently as the Compton Branch Head Deputy. Ms. Blackburn joined the Training Division at the Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center and served as Assistant Training Coordinator and Training Coordinator before her promotion to Head Deputy in 2019. As Head Deputy of Central Misdemeanors, the Law Clerk Program, East Los Angeles, and Department-wide Training, she has supervised over 150 attorneys and law clerks.

As a Public Defender leader, Ms. Blackburn has worked to implement the goals and values of the Strategic Plan through her active participation on the Operations Committee, Head Deputy Reassignment Committee and Wellness Committee. Her contributions to the new attorney interviewing process and law clerk recruitment helped shape and develop policies and protocols which embody the Los Angeles County Public Defender's deep commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Ms. Blackburn is a Los Angeles native and graduate of both Howard University and Southwestern Law School. She has been active in supporting and advocating for the Autism community. Ms. Blackburn is a well-respected member of the Black Public Defender's Association (BPDA). She has been married for 20 years to her wonderful husband Aaron and is the proud mother to daughter Abeje, a fashion designer, and 16-year-old son Isaiah, who aspires to someday be a 3rd generation graduate of Howard University.