



Carmel Martin, Special Secretary of the Governor's Office for Children

Carmel Martin is the Special Secretary leading the Governor's Office for Children and a Senior Advisor to the Governor for Economic Mobility. She leads the Governor's Children's Cabinet, works to improve services and supports for Maryland's children and families, and leads the development of policy related to tackling child poverty.

Prior to this role, Martin served as the Domestic Policy Advisor to Vice President Kamala Harris and Deputy Assistant to the President at the White House. At the beginning of the Administration, she served as Deputy Director of the Domestic Policy Council and Deputy Assistant to the President for Economic Mobility. Prior to the Biden-Harris Administration, Martin was a senior policy advisor for the Biden for President campaign.

Before joining the campaign, Martin was a Managing Director for State and Local Partnerships at the Emerson Collective. Prior to this position, Martin was the executive vice president for policy at the Center for American Progress, a progressive think tank in Washington, D.C., where she managed the organization's communications and policy teams, including the economic policy, national security and climate teams. She led the launch and development of CAP's Women's Initiative, and CAP's Democracy and Criminal Justice teams. In 2004, Martin was a founding member of the American Progress staff and after stepping down as EVP in 2017, she was a Distinguished Senior Fellow at American Progress.

During the Obama Administration, Martin served as the assistant secretary for policy and budget at the U.S. Department of Education. Prior to her appointment, Martin served as general counsel and deputy staff director of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee in the United States Senate under the leadership of the late Sen. Edward Kennedy. She also served as chief counsel and senior policy advisor to former Sen. Jeff Bingaman and special counsel to former Sen. Tom Daschle. Through her years in Congress, she worked on legislation related to education, workforce, budget, welfare, health care, and other issues of national importance.

Early in Martin's career, she worked as a trial attorney for the Civil Rights Division at the U.S. Department of Justice and as a member of Hogan and Hartson's (now Hogan Lovells) education practice. She graduated with a J.D. and master's degree in public affairs from the University of Texas. After graduate school, Martin was a law clerk to Thomas M. Reavley, judge in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit.