

Executive – At – Large Candidate Statement

To all my Union brothers and sisters, my name is Radiance Ward and I am asking for your support and vote to become an AFSCME Local 3315 Executive-at-Large Board Member. This month marks my 10th year as an Assistant Public Defender and 10th year as a dues paying member of AFSCME Local 3315. During those 10 years, I have worked in various divisions in various locations. I started my career in the Civil – Child Protection Division. Subsequently, I moved to the Markham Courthouse, where I was assigned to the Juvenile Justice Courtroom. Currently, I am assigned to the Felony Trial Division at 26th and California. I've been in this division for 6.5 years.

I know all too well how much work goes into being an Assistant Public Defender, no matter which location or division of assignment. And I am a firm believer that a person can not pour from an empty vessel. And this is why the Union is so important to me. As we constantly pour into our clients, in particular, and into the fight against the criminal legal system in general; the Union works tirelessly to make sure that we are protected and are not “empty vessels.” This work is extremely important to me. In order for us to provide the best representation possible, we all must be our best selves. And whether it be through ensuring that our office continues to be a place where its attorneys are treated with dignity, where all members of Local 3315 feel they have fair opportunities for advancement, or simply working to make sure that our office is our “safe haven” in buildings where we are often on the receiving end of so many unfair practices, I am ready to do that work. And that is why, when you submit your ballots for Executive-at-Large, I am asking for your vote.

Radiance Ward