



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY **COMMUNICATIONS**

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LDEQ WELCOMES NEW SECRETARY COURTNEY J. BURDETTE

BATON ROUGE, LA — The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) is proud to welcome its new secretary, Courtney J. Burdette, following her appointment by Gov. Jeff Landry May 2. Secretary Burdette brings to the agency more than a decade of public service experience and a deep commitment to environmental stewardship and good governance.

A veteran attorney with a strong background in environmental law and public administration, Burdette first joined LDEQ in 2014 and served as General Counsel and then Executive Counsel from 2020 to 2023 — becoming the first Black woman to hold those roles in the agency's history. Her extensive legal career also includes positions as an Assistant Attorney General with the Louisiana Department of Justice and judicial clerkships with the Hon. Ralph Tyson and Hon. Brian Jackson at the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana.



“Secretary Burdette’s broad experience, professionalism and long-standing dedication to public service make her uniquely qualified to lead LDEQ into its next chapter,” **Gov. Jeff Landry said.** “She understands the critical importance of protecting our environment while fostering responsible economic development. We are proud to welcome her back to the agency in this leadership role.”

A Baton Rouge native, Burdette earned her bachelor’s degree in English from Howard University and her juris doctorate from LSU’s Paul M. Hebert Law Center. Her parents and extended family have a legacy in Louisiana’s legal community — both her mother and father are attorneys, with her mother having served as a judge for over two decades.

Now Burdette will lead LDEQ in its mission to provide service to the people of Louisiana through comprehensive environmental protection and compliance programs across the state.

“This is a full-circle moment for me, and I’m honored to return to LDEQ as Secretary,” **Secretary Burdette said.** “I know the caliber of professionals that work here and the impact this agency can have on Louisiana’s environment and the communities we serve. Together, we will uphold the highest standards of integrity and innovation as we tackle some of our state’s most complex environmental challenges.”

Burdette emphasized her goal to strengthen relationships with stakeholders across government, industry and the public, and to ensure the agency remains transparent, accountable and responsive.

“There is that saying, ‘good enough for government work.’ I don’t believe in that,” **Secretary Burdette continued.** “I believe in good work, period — wherever you are and whatever you’re doing. At LDEQ, we will continue to pursue excellence, grounded in science, service and a shared responsibility to future generations.”

Secretary Burdette resides in Baton Rouge with her husband and their two children, Carter and Payton. She brings a people-first approach to leadership and carries with her a deeply held belief in public service as a force for good.

For more information about LDEQ and its leadership, visit www.deq.louisiana.gov.

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About the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality

LDEQ is dedicated to serving the people of Louisiana by providing comprehensive environmental protection to promote and protect health, safety, and welfare.
