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Leslie D. J. Patterson, CPA, MBA

Leslie Patterson is the Southeast Region Strategic Growth Markets Leader for GA/AL/TN, the Southeast Region Talent Leader and a Partner at EY. In her current role, she oversees the development and the strategic people processes of the 2,500 employees across 15 offices and the EY Caribbean practice. Leslie is a member of EY's Americas Talent Executive Committee and has served on multiple Global and Americas Task Forces for the firm.

Leslie has been with EY for 23 years. Prior to her current role, Leslie was the Americas Director of the Office of Diversity Strategy and Development, co-leading the firm's Diversity and Inclusion efforts. She worked with the firm's leadership to implement programs and initiatives that promote a culture of inclusiveness. Great emphasis was placed on awareness building, mentoring and networking—which fully supports the firm's culture and its commitment to creating lifelong relationships with its people by providing them with the opportunities and with the tools they need to succeed within the firm and beyond. Leslie speaks often on human capital, diversity strategy, and career development issues at conferences, universities, and in other public venues; and has been frequently quoted on such subjects in various publications.

Previously, Leslie was a national recruiter for EY, focusing primarily on the firm's minority campus and experienced hire recruitment efforts and building relationships with external professional organizations. Leslie began her career with EY in the firm's Assurance practice. She is a Certified Public Accountant, licensed in the state of Georgia.

Leslie is active in many civic, educational, and professional organizations. She serves as a board member on Hampton University's Board of Trustees, the Atlanta Police Foundation Board, the Trinity School Board of Trustees, and Vanderbilt University's MaCC Advisory Board. Among Leslie's professional affiliations are the GA State Society of CPAs, Leadership Atlanta, American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, National Association of Black Accountants (Life Member) and the American Accounting Association.

Leslie was born in Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, and received her B.S. in accounting from Hampton University with highest honors. She earned her M.B.A. from the Goizueta Business School at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia.

Leslie, her husband—Keven, their son—Caleb (8), and twin sons—Austin and Blake (7) live in Smyrna, Georgia.