

# CHAD DION LASSITER, MSW

SERVANT LEADER - ADVOCATE - CHANGE AGENT

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## EXECUTIVE BIOGRAPHY

Chad Dion Lassiter is a respected executive leader, professor, and national expert in the field of American Race Relations and has worked on race, peace, and poverty-related issues nationally and internationally. Driven by his passion to serve as an advocate for humanity, for nearly 30 years, Lassiter has become a respected social change agent in the field of human services. He is well known for his strategic organizational leadership, and innovative approach to human rights issues. Leveraging experience across government, social services, and community engagement, Lassiter's influence has shaped public policy and enhanced operational effectiveness for countless clinical and social service programs.

Lassiter is currently the Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission, an agency that promotes equal opportunity for all and enforces Pennsylvania's civil rights laws that protect people from unlawful discrimination. The agency has four Regional Offices that comprise the 67 Counties in Pennsylvania. As the Executive Director, he manages a \$13 million annual budget and oversees several multidisciplinary teams including 90 staff members, and 11 commissioners, appointed by the governor.

Advocating for vital services for the most vulnerable has been the cornerstone of Lassiter's leadership. He is the co-founder and current president of the University of Pennsylvania's School of Social Policy & Practice's Black Men at Penn, the first Ivy League Black male group of social workers. Since 2003 this transcendent group has sought to recruit Black males into the profession, as well as provide Anti-Racism and violence prevention training to urban and suburban schools around the country.

He is called upon frequently by media outlets and government entities to provide commentary on race relations, and social justice issues, and explore potential solutions. Lassiter has been recognized and awarded at the federal, state, and local level including induction into the University of Pennsylvania's School of Social Policy and Practice Alumni Hall of Fame, and in 2021 was chosen as the National Association of Social Workers, Pennsylvania Chapter Social Worker of the Year. Lassiter has also been recognized by the Philadelphia Tribune as "The Most Influential African American Leader from 2010-2022", and as "Who's Who among AfricanAmericans" 17th edition in 2004 with such notables as Colin Powell and Michael Jordan.

In 2023 Lassiter was appointed by President Joe Biden to serve on the Presidential Advisory Commission on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity for Black Americans.

Lassiter has a proven track record leading both operational and fiscal growth through innovative approaches in program development, staff diversification, organizational restructuring, and budgeting to drive costeffective operations.

Lassiter obtained his undergraduate degree in Social Work from Johnson C. Smith University, and his Master's in Social Work from the University of Pennsylvania.