

Speaker Bio

Stanley Richards

Executive Vice President, The Fortune Society, Inc.

Stanley Richards is the Executive Vice President of The Fortune Society (Fortune), a 52-year-old service and advocacy non-profit organization based in New York City whose mission is to support successful reentry from prison and promote alternatives to incarceration.

A formerly incarcerated man of color with decades of experience in the criminal justice field, Stanley's professional experience began in 1991 at Fortune, where he initially worked as a Counselor. Between 1997 and 2001, he served as the Deputy Director of Client Intervention at Hunter College Center on AIDS, Drugs and Community Health.

After returning to Fortune and receiving a series of promotions, today, Stanley is the second-highest executive and has responsibilities in the overall management of Fortune and oversight of all direct service programs. He also represents Fortune's fundraising and advocacy work, having taken on a leadership role in its David Rothenberg Center for Public Policy.

In 2014, Stanley was recognized by the Obama administration as a Champion of Change for his commitment to helping individuals impacted by the justice system. He also became the first formerly incarcerated person to be appointed by the City Council Speaker and serves as Vice Chair to the NYC Board of Correction, a regulatory oversight body for setting minimum standards of care, custody and control of people incarcerated in New York City jails. He currently serves on a number of other committees and boards as well.

Other appointments include the Independent Commission on New York City Criminal Justice and Incarceration Reform chaired by former NYS Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman, which created and released a blueprint, "A More Just New York City", for the future of criminal justice in New York City; the Working Group on Design, a subcommittee of the Justice Implementation Task Force, to ensure effective implementation of the "Smaller, Safer, Fairer: A Roadmap to Closing Rikers Island" initiative; the New York City Disconnected Youth Task Force which effort aims to examine the barriers that out-of-school and out-of-work youth face in enrolling in school or being employed; and the New York City Older Adult Reentry Task Force which will issue recommendations to address issues related to the post-incarceration reentry for older adults.