

## **Catherine Coleman Flowers**

Cflowers@CREEJ.org | 334-462-4849 | catherinecolemanflowers.com | thenewpress.com/books/waste

### **Education**

PhD. Science, Honorary, Wesleyan University (2021)

M.A. History, University of Nebraska at Kearney (2015)

B.A. History, Cameron University (1986)

### **Career**

Co-Vice Chair of the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council (March 2021-present)

Founder and CEO, The Center for Rural Enterprise and Environmental Justice (June 2019-present)

Practitioner-in-Residence, Duke University Human Rights Center at the Franklin Humanities Institute (January 2017-present)

Board of Advisors, Center for Earth Ethics at Union Theological Seminary (December 2019-present)

Rural Development Manager, Equal Justice Initiative (June 2008-present)

Founder and Executive Director, The Alabama Center for Rural Enterprise Community Development Corporation (March 2002 - December 2019)

Commissioner, Alabama Women's Commission (January 2006- August 2008)

Alabama Rural Initiative Director, The National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise (March 2002 – January 2006)

Economic Development Coordinator, Lowndes County Commission (March 2001-June 2002)

Project Director, NAACP Voter Empowerment Project, Black Belt Region (September 2000 – November 2000)

Teacher, Detroit Public Schools (August 1997-June 2000)

Executive Director, The National Voting Rights Museum (August 1996-June 1997)

Teacher, Hoke County Public Schools (August 1990- June 1996)

Teacher, The District of Columbia Public Schools (August 1987- June 1990)

### **Honors and awards**

The William K. Reilly Environmental Leadership Award (2022)

The Southern Environmental Law Center Philip D. Reed Environmental Writing Award (2022)

The Horizon Award of the Harvard Environmental Law Society (2022)

The Riverkeeper Big Fish Award (2021)

Black Women Green Future Awards for Exceptional Leadership and Contribution to the Environmental Justice Movement (2021)

MacArthur Fellowship in Environmental Health for research on intestinal parasites and wastewater (2020)

Recipient of the River Hero Award 2020, River Network (2020)

The Jean and Leslie Douglas Pearl Award, The Cornell Douglas Foundation (2020)

MacArthur 100 & Change Finalist (2020)

Catalyst for Change Award, Creating A Spark for Change in Environmental Justice presented by Huntsville/Madison County Rosa Parks Committee, the Ivy Center of Huntsville, and Madison County Foundation, Inc. (2019)

Southerners of the Year 2018, Southern Living Magazine. (2018)

Alabama's 2017 Women Who Shape the State (2017)  
GRIST 50 Fixer, Al Gore Nomination (2016)  
Dr. Height Award, Delta Sigma Theta Montgomery Alumnae Chapter (2011)

### **Congressional Testimony**

Testified before the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment  
March 7, 2019

### **Books**

1. Flowers, C.C., to be published November 17, 2020. Waste: One Woman's Fight Against America's Dirty Secret, The New Press.

### **Publications**

1. Flowers, C.C., Kamuf Ward, J., & Winkler, I., 2019. Flushed and Forgotten: Sanitation and Wastewater in Rural Communities in the United States. *The Institute for the Study of Human Rights at Columbia University*. [https://www.humanrightscolumbia.org/sites/default/files/Flushed and Forgotten - FINAL \(1\).pdf](https://www.humanrightscolumbia.org/sites/default/files/Flushed%20and%20Forgotten%20-%20FINAL%20(1).pdf)
2. Flowers, C.C., 2018. America's Dirty Shame: Living amid Raw Sewage. *Anglican Theological Review*, 100(1), pp.129-135. <https://www.questia.com/library/journal/1P4-1994815695/america-s-dirty-shame-living-amid-raw-sewage>
3. Flowers, C.C., 2018. Decreased Food and Water Intake Attributable to Failing Sanitation in the United States. *American journal of public health*, 108(10), pp.1269-1269. <https://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/10.2105/AJPH.2018.304688>
4. Carrera, J.S. and Flowers, C.C., 2018. Sanitation Inequity and the Cumulative Effects of Racism in Colorblind Public Health Policies. *American Journal of Economics and Sociology*, 77(3-4), pp.941-966. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/ajes.12242>
5. McKenna, M.L., McAtee, S., Bryan, P.E., Jeun, R., Ward, T., Kraus, J., Bottazzi, M.E., Hotez, P.J., Flowers, C.C. and Mejia, R., 2017. Human intestinal parasite burden and poor sanitation in rural Alabama. *The American journal of tropical medicine and hygiene*, 97(5), pp.1623-1628. <http://www.ajtmh.org/content/journals/10.4269/ajtmh.17-0396>
6. Winkler, I.T. and Flowers, C.C., 2017. America's Dirty Secret: The Human Right to Sanitation in Alabama's Black Belt. *Colum. Hum. Rts. L. Rev.*, 49, p.181. <http://hrlr.law.columbia.edu/files/2018/01/IngaTWinklerCatherineCole.pdf>

### **Memberships and affiliations**

The Natural Resources Defense Council, Board Member  
JPB Foundation Advisory Board  
The Center for Constitutional Rights, Board Member  
UCLA Center for Diverse Leadership in the Sciences Board of Advisors  
New Poor People's Campaign, National Steering Committee Member  
The Climate Reality Project, Board Member  
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Member