



LaRueList Café®

LaRueList Café® Presents

LaRueList® Game Changers

— WOMEN'S HISTORY EDITION —



Jeannine LaRue

Decades of leadership.
Still changing the game.

#DecadesOfImpact #LivingLegacy

From the Publisher

By Shanique Taliaferro | **The Game Changers**



This edition was created with care, intention, and deep respect for leadership. LaRueList Game Changers honors people fully — the work they do, the lives they touch, and the responsibility they carry. As Publisher, my role was to help shape and curate that vision so it could be shared clearly and thoughtfully.

I have been deeply influenced and mentored by Jeannine Frisby LaRue. She is known by many as "Mama LaRue" because she leads with generosity, wisdom, and an instinct to uplift, always making room for others to shine. That spirit guided how this work was approached and how recognition lives on these pages.

With so many deserving women, narrowing the list for this first edition required care, conversation, and trust. This edition is an offering and a beginning — not a conclusion — with many more LaRueList editions to come. Thank you for spending time with this edition. My hope is that these pages connect you — to Jeannine Frisby LaRue, and to the many women whose leadership continues to shape lives, communities, and generations — each a Game Changer in her own way.

-Shanique Taliaferro
Publisher



Clearing a Path Forward

There comes a moment when you realize you are no longer walking a path – you are clearing one. I felt that truth in rooms where I was often the only woman, sometimes the only Black woman, always aware that my presence carried a responsibility larger than my name.

I began my journey as a teacher, grounded in the belief that education, care, and truth change lives. That belief carried me into public service and leadership – into spaces where policy is written, industries are regulated, and decisions shape families, cities, and generations. I know the cost of being first. I know what it means to leave rooms changed by your presence.

Honoring the Matriarchs and Other Game Changers

Game Changers are not defined by a single moment – they are defined by momentum. They are women who step into systems as they exist and refuse to accept them as they are. Some cleared paths long ago. Others are shaping them now. This list honors women across generations – the matriarchs who paved the way, the leaders carrying the work forward today, and those whose impact continues to guide us even though they are no longer with us. This is my love letter to women who led anyway – and to those still walking forward.



Photography: Courtesy of LaRueList Cafe®

*“Game Changers
are not defined by
a single moment
– they are defined
by momentum.”*

– Jeannine LaRue

Founder, LaRueList Cafe®

For the women who cleared the path – and those still walking it.

– A LaRueList Cafe® Editorial Series



Recognizing the strategists and operators whose work shapes elections, governance, and public influence



Saily Avelenda

Senior advisor, NJ Democratic State Committee ·
Leadership and advocacy



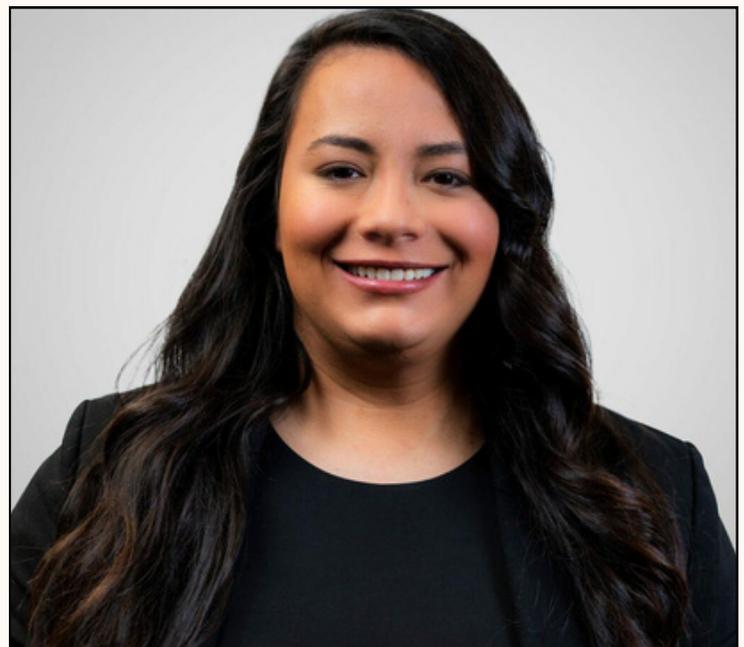
Estina Baker

Senior political and labor strategist ·
Leadership and worker advocacy



T. Missy Balmir

Founder, Thorough Planning · Campaign
planning and operations



Laura Bustamante

Jersey City Chief of Staff · Has numerous
successful campaigns under her belt





LaRueList® POLITICAL OPERATIVE'S

Recognizing the strategists and operators whose work shapes elections, governance, and public influence



Marilyn Davis

Founder, MD Connects
Strategic engagement and outreach



Dyese Davis

Democratic County Chair · Leading party strategy
and civic engagement



Stephenine Dixon

National political strategist
Civic engagement and organizing



Gail Gordon

Republican political strategist · Fundraising and
donor engagement





Recognizing the strategists and operators whose work shapes elections, governance, and public influence



Jeanette Hoffman

President, Marathon Public Affairs · Strategic communications



Jennifer Holdsworth

Senior political strategist and attorney · Campaign leadership



Geri Jannarone

Political strategist · Campaign leadership and organizational strategy



Tricia Maguire

Founder & Chairwoman, Elect Women NJ · Political leadership





Recognizing the strategists and operators whose work shapes elections, governance, and public influence



Laura Matos

Partner, MAD Global Strategy · Public affairs and advocacy leadership



Della McCall

Campaign base vote director · Electoral strategy and field operations



Janice Mironov

Mayor & County Chair · Municipal governance and leadership



Peg Schaffer

Vice Chair, NJ Democratic State Committee · Political leadership





Recognizing the strategists and operators whose work shapes elections, governance, and public influence



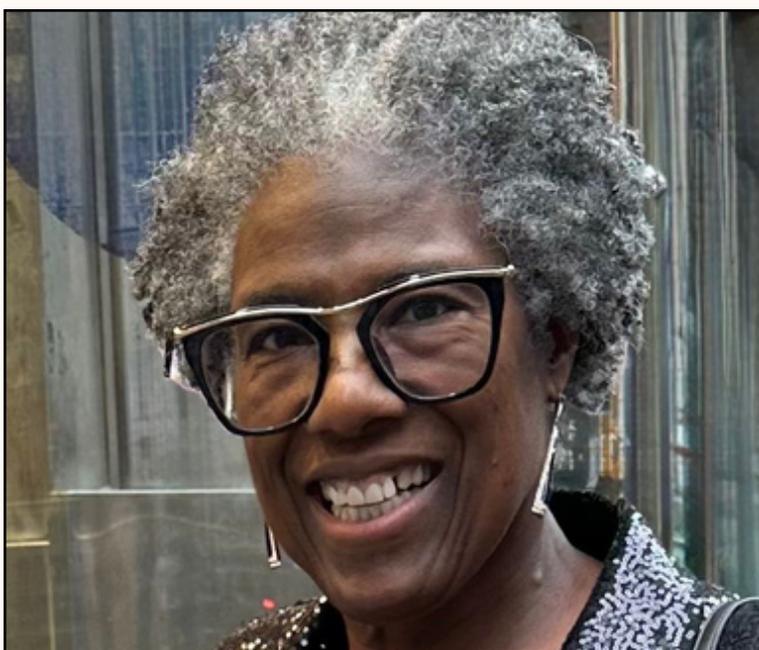
Louise Scott-Rountree

Faith-based leader · Community advocacy and public service



Hira Shaikh

Senior public affairs and branding strategist, Moxie



Regena Thomas

Former NJ Secretary of State · Government leadership



Amy Torres

Executive Director, NJ Alliance · Immigrant justice advocacy

