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[admin@strategiesjustice.com](mailto:admin@strategiesjustice.com)



# MONICA BLAKE, MA

RETIRED POLICE OFFICER, EDUCATOR  
DOCTORAL CANDIDATE IN LEADERSHIP AND  
PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

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Monica Blake is a retired police officer who proudly served the city of Nashville, Tennessee, from 2004–2019. Ms. Blake worked as a patrol officer, assisted with undercover operations, and ended her law enforcement tenure as a dedicated School Resource Officer. Though Ms. Blake became an officer to help victims of crime, in 2016, she survived a violent sexual assault from an off-duty police officer that changed her life by exposing her to the other side of criminal justice. The experience rendered her an advocate for victims' rights and set her on a trajectory to eradicate the so-called Blue Wall of Silence that requires officers to turn a blind eye to misconduct of fellow officers. At great cost to herself, Ms. Blake became an avid supporter of grassroots organizations and supported citizens in establishing an oversight board for police accountability. After enduring discrimination, retaliation, and violation of civil rights from the police department, Ms. Blake filed a federal lawsuit that was settled almost immediately. More importantly, many others discovered their voices to boldly advocate for themselves.

Ms. Blake is currently finishing her doctorate in Leadership and Professional Practice, but she still makes time to support the community in a variety of ways. She understands there is tremendous power in the truth and encourages others to walk in their truth. Monica is the proud mother of three (a daughter and twin boys), and believes that when it comes to lasting change, we can all do more than nothing!

## Topics of Discussion

Workplace Discrimination  
Disparities in Law Enforcement  
Surviving Domestic Violence and Violent Crime