

LAURA W. MURPHY

CIVIL RIGHTS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES LEADER | SENIOR ADVISOR TO LEADING TECHNOLOGY COMPANIES

Laura W. Murphy is President of Laura Murphy & Associates, a firm that provides counsel to clients on crisis management, civil rights and civil liberties challenges, interest group relations, message development, and government relations. She is an influential national civil liberties and civil rights leader and a sought-after policy strategist.

Murphy currently serves as Senior Advisor to two technology companies. She advises Airbnb, the home-sharing company, on strengthening its policies and products to help promote civil rights values at the company. Murphy authored a 32 page report [Airbnb's Work to Fight Discrimination and Build Inclusion](#) that outlines the steps Airbnb is taking to tackle discrimination.

Murphy also advises the largest social media company in the world, Facebook, [leading its civil rights audit](#), and through that process she solicits feedback from civil rights groups and members of Congress on ways that the company can better serve all of its communities. She is designing structural changes to advance equality and inclusion at Facebook. Her interim civil rights report was referenced in a recent [post](#) by Sheryl Sandberg.

Murphy served for 17 years as Director of the ACLU Legislative Office, where she played a crucial role in major civil rights and civil liberties legislation and policies enacted during the last 25 years. She advanced legislation on free speech, criminal justice reform, national security, reproductive rights, LGBTQ rights, civil rights, and Internet privacy. She has been especially celebrated for building unique and effective bipartisan coalitions. She has testified more than a dozen times before Congress and has presented at international forums including the United Nations. Laura Murphy was the first woman, first African American and longest serving head of the federal affairs operation in the ACLU's 100 year history.

Prior to her work at the ACLU, Murphy served as a cabinet member for the Mayor of the District of Columbia, as a chief of staff to a California Assembly Speaker, as an account executive for a public affairs firm, and as a legislative assistant for two members of Congress.

Murphy is an alumna of the Harvard Advanced Leadership Initiative at Harvard University where she served, during 2016, in a year-long fellowship for highly accomplished and experienced leaders committed to tackling national and global challenges. She has been honored by the ACLU affiliates of Washington, D.C., Massachusetts, Maryland and Mississippi. In 2015, Murphy received the Hubert H. Humphrey Civil Rights Award "for selfless and devoted service in the cause of equality" from the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights. Murphy has authored over 50 blogs and opinion pieces and chapters in three books, most recently a chapter in [Journeys, An American Story: 72 Essays about Immigration and American Greatness](#)

She is an artist, gardener and [mentor](#) to numerous rising executives.