

AJ Robinson, Jr., PhD



Dr. Robinson is Chairman and CEO of Symphonic Strategies™ Inc., an organizational and community development firm based in Washington, D.C. Symphonic Strategies™ works with people from all walks of life to help them lead and transform the organizations and communities around them.

He holds a PhD in Government from Harvard University and bachelor's degrees in social psychology and political science from Stanford University. While at Stanford, he co-founded a successful student-led, non-profit organization that provided academic and economic enrichment for at-risk youth in the Bay Area. At Harvard, he specialized in comparative political and economic development and was involved in numerous research projects at the Harvard Institute for International Development, the John F. Kennedy School of Government, and the Department of Afro-American Studies.

Dr. Robinson has been a consultant to the PBS show *Frontline*, served as a staff writer on the Encarta Africana Encyclopedia of the Black Diaspora, and was an adjunct professor in the Department of Organizational Sciences at the George Washington University in Washington, D.C. He was part of a delegation of scholars that toured South Africa immediately after the end of apartheid.

Dr. Robinson became the chief of strategic planning and organizational development at a prominent, national nonprofit organization. While there, he designed and led a social marketing campaign that involved the use of innovative qualitative research and strategic communications tools. He focused on surveys, polls, and focus groups that dealt with issues of race, poverty, and social justice. Dr. Robinson spent a considerable amount of time studying and understanding the needs, preferences, and values of communities of color.

Rochelle Riley



Rochelle Riley's award-winning columns have appeared in the Detroit Free Press and at www.freep.com since 2000. A crusader for better lives for children, government accountability and improved race relations, she has spent 15 years raising awareness

about the need to increase adult literacy and has helped raise nearly \$2 million for literacy causes in Michigan. She has worked at The Washington Post, The Dallas Morning News and The Courier-Journal in Louisville, Ky., where her debut column calling for a museum to honor native son Muhammad Ali helped spur an \$80 million campaign to build the Muhammad Ali Center. It opened in 2005. Rochelle's honors include a National Headliner Award, National Scripps Howard Award and first-place honors from the Associated Press-Managing Editors, MPA, SPJ and NABJ. Her columns about the fall of former Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick were part of the entry that won the 2009 Pulitzer Prize in Local Reporting. A strong advocate for press freedom around the world, Rochelle is co-chair of the National Association of Black Journalists Global Journalism Task Force, which works to increase the number of minority journalists covering the world. She also is a board member of the North American Committee of the Vienna-based International Press Institute. She has traveled to 21 countries and counting... She was a 2007-2008 Knight-Wallace Fellow at the University of Michigan, where she studied online communities and film. And she was a 2016 inductee into the Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame.

