

Carlottia Scott

Chief of Staff, Representatives Ronald V. Dellums and Barbara Lee of California

Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress

Congressional Black Caucus Community: Part One

Carlottia Scott describes the working relationships forged among Congressional Black Caucus staff members.

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I would say that having worked with the CBC over the years on the Congressional Black Caucus weekend—the CBC’s executive director, when I came, was Barbara Williams. She’s an old friend from California. Barbara, at the time, just insisted that, you have to meet everybody, you’ve got to meet all the staff people, you’ve got to get to know people, know what folks are doing, and then that way, you can’t say you’re not in the know. From that flowed close working relationships with the staffs of the Members. Any time any new staff was coming to anybody’s office, there was a collective of us that would welcome folk and say, “If you need anything, just pick up the phone.” We would share information, and I know, for years, I had developed a legislative test. I said, “Okay, if you’re looking for an LD, if they can’t answer these questions, they can’t be your LD. Here’s my list.” Because I never had to use it. I developed it, but I never had to use it. All the staffs were not only welcoming, but encouraging. This is an opportunity for you to do your best. As I would share with my interns, every day has to be a learning experience. You have to learn something new every day. If you don’t, you haven’t done your job. And I did, I learned something new almost every day, for all those years.