



## **Department of Veterans Affairs**

### **Senior Executive Biography**

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#### **Zaneta Inez Adams**

##### **Deputy Assistant Secretary for Intergovernmental Affairs Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs (OPIA)**

As Deputy Assistant Secretary, Ms. Adams provides strategic advice and guidance to the OPIA Assistant Secretary, Secretary, Undersecretaries for Health, Benefits and Memorial Affairs, and all other VA staff offices by fostering and enhancing government partnerships and acting as liaison between VA and the White House, federal, state, county, municipal, tribal, insular and international governments, rural and faith-based communities.



Prior to being named Deputy Assistant Secretary, Ms. Adams served as Director of the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency under Gov. Gretchen Whitmer from June 2019 thru December 2022. She was the first woman Veteran in Michigan history to be appointed to a governor's cabinet position.

In 2006, after eight years of enlisted service in the U.S. Army, National Guard and Reserve, Adams was medically discharged with honor. During her time in the military, Adams served as a Joint Counter Narcotics Task Force Agent for the National Guard. Prior to her appointment to the MVAA, she was an attorney at Williams Hughes PLLC, assisting Veterans with compensation and pension appeals.

Adams has consistently demonstrated leadership through service and board membership. She is the former President and founder of WINC For All Women Veterans and is currently an active and proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated.

In 2021, Adams was named a Women Veteran Trailblazer by the VA's Center for Women Veterans. She also recently told her story for a VA's Million Veteran Program documentary, in which she won a regional Emmy for as a Producer. She holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from Columbia College and a Juris Doctor from Western Michigan Cooley Law School, where she also taught veterans' law as an adjunct professor. She has been married to Joseph Adams, an Army Veteran for 25 years and has 6 children (including 2 sets of twins).

#### **CAREER CHRONOLOGY:**

2023 - Present	Deputy Assistant Secretary for Intergovernmental Affairs, VA, Washington, DC
2019 - 2022	Director, Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency, Lansing, MI
2016 - 2019	Associate Attorney, Williams Hughes, PLLC, Muskegon, MI
2015 - 2016	Attorney, Zaneta Adams, PLC, Muskegon, MI
2014 - 2019	Founder/CEO, WINC For All Women Veterans, Michigan

#### **EDUCATION:**

2014	Juris Doctorate, Western Michigan University Cooley Law School
2011	Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, Columbia College, Columbia, MO