

Melissa McLawhorn Houston

Founder and Principal at 929 Strategies

Melissa Houston is the founder and principal for 929 Strategies, a public policy consulting firm. Melissa is an attorney who has more than 20 years of experience on the front lines of public policy development and implementation in the state of Oklahoma. She has served in a variety of capacities including most recently as Oklahoma Labor Commissioner, Secretary for Education and Workforce Development, and previously as Chief of Staff for the Oklahoma Attorney General and the Oklahoma Office of Homeland Security. She served on the Transition Team for Governor Kevin Stitt as a strategic advisor and heading up his policy agenda development.



She has worked extensively in agency operations, regulatory reform, public policy development, legislation and administrative rules, political campaigns and numerous high-profile litigation matters. Houston also has an extensive background in public safety and played a key role in criminal justice reform efforts and federal anti-terrorism legislation. She is also a frequent speaker on the impact of terrorism and the importance of anti-terrorism strategies as an Oklahoma City Bombing survivor.

Houston attended the University of Oklahoma where she earned a bachelor's degree in Letters and a Juris Doctor. She and her husband, Ben Houston, who also is an attorney, live in Norman with their two teenage sons.