

Angela T. Rye, Esq.

EMPOWERMENTEUR | ADVOCATE | POLITICAL STRATEGIST



Angela Rye is Principal and CEO of IMPACT Strategies. Developing tailor-made solutions for high profile clients, Rye is highly sought after for her practical, commonsense approach to political strategy, issue advocacy, and public engagement. She is a CNN Political Commentator and NPR political Analyst. Featured as an influential politico, lawyer, and advocate by several publications and outlets from Marie Claire to Ebony and the Washington Post, Rye has an unwavering commitment to ensuring positive change in the political process. As a respected political strategist, Rye is often called upon for her candid, timely commentary on a multitude of topics. She is a regular on-air personality on several media outlets including BET, CNN, Huffpost Live, and TV One. The depth of her dialogue ranges from political campaigns to more complex legislation that bears long-term implications nationally and internationally. Across the Nation, Rye engages in challenging conversations with private sector leaders, civil rights advocates, social justice proponents, and community organizers. She has become a critical voice of conviction on many of the most pressing issues of our time including national politics, race in America, criminal and social justice, and other public policy issues.

Quick Facts

- Principal and CEO, IMPACT Strategies
- Lawyer
- Political Strategist
- Former CBC Executive Director
- Worked on Capitol Hill for six years
- Founded a nonprofit, IMPACT
- Featured on MSNBC, TV One, C-SPAN, BET, TheRoot.com, and TheGrio.com, NPR, The Today Show, NBC Nightly News and Real Time with Bill Maher
- Featured in Marie Claire, Ebony, JET, Washington Post, Politico, FORTUNE, Washington Life, National Journal, Congressional Weekly

Awards and Honors

- 2015 Fortune's 40 under 40 Women to Watch
- 2013 Marie Claire Power Women
- 2013 The Root 100

Rye served as the Executive Director and General Counsel to the Congressional Black Caucus for the 112th Congress. In her role as Executive Director, Rye was tasked with developing the overall legislative and political strategy for the Caucus. Prior to her tenure with the CBC, she served as Senior Advisor and Counsel to the House Committee on Homeland Security under the leadership of Congressman Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS), Chairman. There she was charged with developing the general political strategy for the Committee with a focus on streamlining government contracting practices and opening doors of opportunity for small businesses.

Rye has over a decade of experience in government contracting, homeland security, civil rights, higher education, political fundraising, strategic communications, and issue advocacy. She currently serves on the boards of the Congressional Black Caucus Institute, Congressional Black Caucus Political Action Committee (CBCPAC), the Seattle University School of Law Alumni, Women in Entertainment Empowerment Network, serves as a senior advisor to the Government Technology and Services Coalition, and is a member of The Links, Incorporated,

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- 2013 The Memorial Foundation Drum Majors for Justice Leadership Award
- 2013 Howard University CDA Progressive Young Leader Award
- 2012-2013 NBLSA-Western Region Distinguished Alumni Award
- 2012 National Action Network Action & Authority Award
- 2012 Seattle University African American Alumni Award
- 2012 The Root 100
- 2012 On Being A Black Lawyer Power 100
- 2012 Young & Powerful National Trailblazer
- 2012 Politic365 Gamechanger
- 2011 Seattle University BLSA Vanguard Leader of the Year Award
- 2011 The Root 100
- 2011 MSNBC BLTWY Power List of 35 People Under 35
- 2011 Power Play Magazine Leading Ladies
- 2010 DC 50 Businesswomen Leaders
- 2010 DC's Most Influential People
- 2010 Who's Who in Black Washington, DC
- 2010 NAACP Power 40
- 2010 Black Girls Rock

Boards

- Congressional Black Caucus Institute
- CBCPAC
- Seattle University School of Law Alumni Board
- Women in Entertainment Empowerment Network
- Government Technology & Services Coalition
- INCLUSV

Memberships

- The Links, Incorporated
- Washington Government Relations Group
- National Bar Association

National Bar Association, American Bar Association, and the Washington Government Relations Group. Upon moving to the Nation's Capital, Rye co-founded IMPACT, an organization that seeks to encourage young professionals in three core areas: economic empowerment, civic engagement, and political involvement. The organization has quickly become a powerful voice and advocate for today's young professionals of color nationwide. Under her leadership, IMPACT formed critical partnerships with the National Bar Association, Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, National Urban League, Rainbow PUSH, Congressional Black Caucus Political Education and Leadership Institute, Black Leadership Forum, and many others.

Rye began her career in legislative advocacy at the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO), an umbrella association for the Nation's 120 historically and predominately black colleges and universities on Capitol Hill and with the Executive Branch. At NAFEO, she served as the Coordinator of Advocacy and Legislative Affairs. Prior to NAFEO, Rye worked as a Legal Extern in the Los Angeles office of Congresswoman Maxine Waters (D-CA). While working in the district office, Rye assisted in the mobilization and organization of community members to make a difference locally. Rye also served as the Western Region Director for the National Black Law Students Association (NBLSA) where she managed and supervised the Regional Executive Board.

With a deep passion and reputation for advocacy, Rye has always been committed to shoring up efforts to increase knowledge of the political process for her colleagues, peers, and others nationwide. Born and raised in Seattle, Washington, Rye learned the importance of advocacy through her family's political and community activism. She is a proud graduate of the University of Washington and Seattle University School of Law.