

Aude M.L. Sicard Biography

Aude M.L. Sicard was born in Port-au-Prince, Haiti and moved to Waukegan, Illinois in 1977. Ms. Sicard obtained a Master's in Business Administration with a focus on Health Care Management at University of Phoenix (2007) and a double major in Criminal Justice and Political Sciences at Florida International University (1994). Ms. Sicard retired from Jackson Health System in December, 2015 after 32 years of service. Her last position was that of a Managed Health Care Analyst. In that capacity, she negotiated contracts with health care insurance companies on behalf of the hospital.

Ms. Sicard's involvement in the socio-economic and political challenges of the Haitian community began in 1982 with the Haitian American Benevolent Association (HABA). HABA was a not for profit organization whose mission was to assist the transition of the first wave of Haitians newly arrived in Homestead and Florida City. Ms. Sicard became a Guardian, an advocate for children's rights with the Guardian Ad Litem. She was the first Haitian woman to own her own boutique in an economic development project by Ford Foundation in 1991, at the Caribbean Market Place in Little Haiti. "Fifi's Boutique" brought to the community custom jewelry made in Haiti, French perfumes, lingerie, cosmetics and a variety of items nostalgically sought after by this immigrant population.

Ms. Sicard's political interests lead to an internship in Congresswoman Carrie P. Meek's office, 1994. She is a founding member and Co-Chair of the Haitian American Political Action Committee (HAPAC). Her civic engagement and education on voting rights through radio and television programs galvanized the voting population. The impact of her work contributed to the successful election of many candidates of Haitian, some in office today. She is a founding member of the Haitian American Grassroots Coalition. When all seemed lost, she led a delegation to Washington DC and championed the "Dear Colleague Letter" a co-sponsored letter by Senator Bob Graham and Senator Connie Mack, asking Congress to pass the Haitian Refugee and Immigrant Fairness Act (HRIFA). A bill that granted permanent residence (green cards) to 50,000 undocumented Haitians. Her leadership marked the successful passage of the Haitian Immigration Fairness Act of 1998 (HRIFA). Her activism includes the implementation of Community Liaison positions in the Fort-Lauderdale Police Department at a time when it was crucial to alleviate the cultural clash within the communities. She advocated and successfully secured another liaison position in the Office of Mayor Penelas to facilitate relations with the Haitian community.

Ms. Sicard has appeared in numerous radio and TV programs. She hosted her own television show "*Access to Health Care*" with WLRN Cable Tap. She was interviewed by Elliott Rodriguez on Chanel 4, during the Elian saga. Also by Channel 10 concerning the situation in Haiti at that time. For two years, she sponsored and hosted her own radio show "Miromax" on Planet 17 Radio. The show covered current events with a focus on politic and access to healthcare. Through her TV and radio shows, she educated the population highlighting responsibilities to civism; and covered topics of interest to the community, from Census 2000 to get-out-the-Vote (GOTV), police profiling, patient's rights, victimization and others.

Ms. Sicard is the founder and President of Women Alliance of Miami-Dade & Broward, Inc. (WAMDB). Incorporated in 1991, dissolved in 1993 after Hurricane Andrew, WAMDB was re-instated in 1998. WAMDB's mission is to advocate for children and immigrant women, with a focus on access to health care. The Miami Herald featured Ms. Sicard as an advocate for Access to Health Care by immigrants in their Thanksgiving Specials in 2005.

Ms. Sicard a columnist in *Main Stream*, a local newspaper. Her articles brought awareness about the complexities of the health care industry in the U.S.A, at a time when 14 million people didn't have health care insurance. She authored an essay about Immigrant Elders Access to Health Care published by the Florida Commission on the Status of Women in their 2006 Annual Report.

Ms. Sicard served on several boards: Broward County Census 2020; Miami-Dade County Census 2000 and 2010 Complete Count Committees. Chair of the Florida Department of Health- Board of Refugee Health 2004. Co-Chair of Friends of Profamil (2005) a health care clinic in Haiti subsidized by Planned Parenthood. Executive Board member of Miami-Dade County Community Relations Board 1999-2005. Board member of Miami-Dade County Affirmative Action Board (2002), Founding Board member of Haitian Neighborhood Center- Sant La (2000), Founding and Board member of Haitian American Grassroots Coalition (1998), Vice-Chair of Society of Haitian American Professionals & Entrepreneurs, Inc. (SHAPE) 1999. Board member of Association Cayenne of South Florida 2005. Board member of Haitian American Benevolent Association, Inc. (HABA) 1983.

Ms. Sicard is very much involved in the political arena in Miami-Dade and Broward counties. She was the Vice-Chair of the Haitian American Political Action Committee (2000), Haitian American Political Society of South Florida; former President (2010-2015) and founding member of the Haitian American Democratic Club of Broward She was a candidate for Broward County Commission seat District 9 in 2010. She became a Delegate at the National Democratic Convention in 2012.

Ms. Sicard's radio show was informative and educational. She engaged her listeners in dialogues so they could voice their grievances, ask questions, absorb useful information to help them better navigate the system and avoid victimization.

As an employee of Jackson Health System Ms. Sicard was instrumental in influencing the policy makers at Jackson Health System to implement changes that benefited access to health care by immigrants. Most importantly she trained financial assessment staff on immigration laws to help them better understand their impact on Access to Healthcare. She has represented Jackson Health System at conferences organized by the U.S. Dept. of Health and Office of Refugee Resettlement/Florida Dept. of Children & Families Refugee Services in DC and Tallahassee.

Ms. Sicard continues to advocate and push for issues of interests in her community. She was asked by SEIU in 2014 to speak to the Broward County Commission on the issue of increasing wages for Airport employees working for companies that provide

outsourced services under contracts with Broward County. The issue was successfully resolved.

She assisted Nova Southeastern University in obtaining community approval to build a state-of-the-art hospital on campus. This would create jobs, better access to health care, more educational opportunities for our youth.

Upon her retirement last December, 2015, Ms. Sicard devotes her time in reviving her not-for-profit organization – Women Alliance of Miami-Dade & Broward, Inc. to continue her work on social and human right issues. She created also a consulting firm – AudYves & Associates, LLC –a staffing agency and consulting service to assist physicians and clinics with their negotiations with health care insurance companies.

Throughout her career, her focus has been in politics, immigration issues and access to healthcare. She has been recognized for her community service and accomplishments by many.

Ms. Sicard is the recipient of numerous Awards, Proclamations and Certificates of Appreciation as follows:

Certificate of Appreciation from Haitian American Democratic Club of Broward – November 2019

Certificate of completion from Leadership Broward – June, 2016

Congressional Recognition from Congresswoman Frederica Wilson, read on December, 17 2015, posted in the USA Congressional Record of the 114th Congress, Vol 157, and No 28

Proclamation from Chairman Jean Monestime – Miami-Dade County – December 15, 2015 Aude Sicard's Day

Marie-Claire Heureuse Leadership Awards from Marleine Bastien of Fanm Ayisyen Nan Miyami – December, 2015

Certificate of Appreciation from State Representative Daphne Campbell – December, 2015

Certificate of Appreciation from the National Association of Haitian Professionals – November, 2015

Award from the Haitian American Democratic Club of Broward- October, 2015

Women of Distinction Award from the Lauderhill Chamber of Commerce – March, 2015

Certificate of Appreciation Jackson Health System for 30 years of Service December, 2013

Certificate of Appreciation Miami-Dade County Census 2010

Award for Pelvic Cancer Awareness Project by University of Miami – Partners in Action 2009

Certificate of Appreciation, City of North Miami - 2007

Certificate of Appreciation – Miami-Dade County Mayor and Commissioners – 2006

Certificate of Appreciation, Jackson Health System – 2005

Certificate of Appreciation, City of Miami Mayor Manny Diaz – 2005

Certificate of Appreciation, Jackson Health System, contribution to hurricane victims – 2004

Certification of Appreciation, Alliance for Human Services - 2004

Employee of the Year 2004 for Finance - Jackson Health System

Certificate of Appreciation, Florida Depart. Of Health, Bureau of TB & Refugee Health - 2004

Plaque – In the Company of Women Award 2003

Proclamation: Miami-Dade County, Mayor Alex Penelas - 2002

Certificate, Commission on the Status of Women City of Miami - 2002

Award, Hispaniola - 2002

Proclamation, Commissioner Barbara Carey-Shuler, "Women of Distinction"- 2001

Proclamation, Miami-Dade County Commissioners for Immigration Advocacy – 2000

Her most cherished accomplishment is being the proud mother of two young men.