

Kelie Jennard Sturgis

Kelie J. Sturgis is the Chief Operations Officer (COO) for Project: PeaceMakers, Incorporated (PPMI), a Domestic Violence/Intimate Partner Victims' Advocacy agency located in the heart of South Los Angeles. She is a devoted Christian, serving and pleasing God, first! She grew up in this same community area and graduated from Inglewood High School, commuting everyday by bus or car for seven years. At the time of her high school graduation, she was a single parent of a three-month son, and graduated with honors. She immediately enrolled in college, but instead, opted-out to enter into the workforce to care for her child.

In 1987 she received a calling from God that would change her life forever. She applied for the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) to become a police officer. After failing the written test, she re-applied on December 8, 1987, and within four months of testing and background check, she entered the police academy on May 2, 1988. During her tenure as a police officer, she was promoted to training officer after 2 years and 4 months on the department. She patrolled Harbor Division, Central Traffic Division, and Pacific Division, before being transferred to 77th Street Division, where she first was assigned to the Community Relations Office and promoted to her last assignment as a Detective Trainee.

She received several awards and accolades during her tenure as an LAPD Officer becoming the first Mixed heritage female to receive Athlete of the Year in 1995, as well as receiving an offer to apply to the highest specialized unit of the department: Metropolitan, also known as, Metro Unit that houses several specific units, such as: SWAT, Air Unit, Mounted Unit, K-9 Unit, etc. She declined this offer to remain a Detective Trainee, as she felt this was where she could best serve the community of South-Central Los Angeles.

In remaining at 77th Street Division, she worked Juvenile and Sex Crime detective units where she was tasked with starting a new specialize unit for Sex Registrants. On November 12, 1998, her and her partner received an accommodation for their hard work, ability to organize, and investigative skills in writing the guidelines and procedures for all divisions to follow regarding Sex Registrant Enforcement. Shortly after this accommodation, she received another one for training all LAPD divisions, as well as outside law enforcement agencies. During this same time she re-enrolled in college, taking one class each semester

In September of 1999, she became very ill and was removed from duty by her personal physician. After several months of testing, she was advised by her cardiologist that it would be best to resign due to her health. Devasted at this advisement, she followed through by filing for an early pension retirement, which she was awarded on December 20, 2001. Through her medical issues and having to re-shape her life, she continued her education and earned her Associate of Arts Degree on May 24, 2002, graduating Cum Laude.

Since retiring and earning her degree, she has ventured into many different avenues of life. She was the first mixed heritage collegiate softball umpire for the PAC-12; high school football and basketball referee; licensed private investigator; NCAA Softball Regional Advisor, Caregiver, and currently is now the COO for PPMI, which was founded by her mother, who is the Chief Executive Officer, and a retired Los Angeles County Deputy Sheriff.

In her spare time, she enjoys working out (running and weights); reading; watching old comedy sitcoms and most of all sitting on her balcony, enjoying nature and talks with God!!!