

Natashia Tidwell, Esq.

In her role as Counsel for Collora LLP, Natashia Tidwell brings a rich background across the legal industry and law enforcement landscape. Her hands-on experience positions her perfectly to help clients through white collar criminal investigations and other allegations of misconduct. She has a practical approach which meets the highest standards for accountability and fair methods for resolving legal matters.

For more than 20 years, Attorney Tidwell has developed and honed extensive expertise in law enforcement practices as a police officer, federal prosecutor, and as an academic. Her career in law enforcement began in 1993 when, as a newly-minted police officer in Cambridge, Massachusetts, she joined the burgeoning community policing movement as the first school resource officer in the city's only public high school. Upon her promotion to sergeant, Attorney Tidwell was assigned as a detective in the Internal Affairs Division. Whereas her work as a school resource officer relied on fostering trusting relationships directly with the community, her tenure in internal affairs focused on the critical role internal accountability and a fair and equitable disciplinary process play in a police department's perceived legitimacy.

As a member of the Internal Affairs Division, Attorney Tidwell managed a caseload that included the investigation of a fatal police-involved shooting and allegations of excessive force. While navigating constitutional safeguards and collective bargaining agreements, she interviewed countless sworn officers and assisted in the development and implementation of the department's progressive discipline and early intervention policies. In addition to her investigative and development roles in the Internal Affairs Division, Attorney Tidwell conducted periodic audits to ensure compliance with existing rules for the use and reporting of deadly and non-lethal force. After several years in the Division, Attorney Tidwell rose to become the first female lieutenant in the history of the Cambridge Police Department. As a lieutenant, she served as Police Academy Director, where she coordinated the department's training curriculum and participated in the review and re-drafting of numerous policies and procedures.

After earning a law degree, *summa cum laude*, while serving as a sergeant and lieutenant in the Cambridge Police Department, Attorney Tidwell was selected as one of seven applicants nationwide to serve in the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice as a member of the prestigious Attorney General's Honors Program. As a trial attorney in the Public Integrity Section, Attorney Tidwell supervised investigations and litigated public corruption matters throughout the Country on behalf of the United States, including cases of bribery and police perjury.

Prior to entering private practice, Attorney Tidwell was an Associate Professor at New England Law | Boston. Her teaching and research interests reflected an avid interest and expertise in law enforcement and policing. In addition to doctrinal courses in Criminal Procedure, White Collar Crime, and Evidence, she developed and taught a seminar course that explores the relationship between police and inner-city communities with particular focus on excessive force, "stop and frisk," and other constitutional issues. She also researched and published scholarship relating to community policing and procedural justice.