WOMEN

A FORCE IN BUSINESS

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Leslie Walden
Vice President, Regional Public Affairs
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Leslie Lillard Walden is Vice President, Regional Public Affairs for Fidelity Investments, one of the world's largest financial services providers. She leads Fidelity's government relations, community investing and civic efforts, for Fidelity North Carolina as well as New Jersey, New York and Florida.

Leslie joined Fidelity in 1998 in the firm's Corporate Affairs department in Boston and in 2006 established Fidelity's public affairs function in North Carolina and now serves on the regional leadership team that has supported the company's efforts to more than triple its headcount in the state.

Previously, Leslie served as communications director for N.C. Secretary of Crime Control and Public Safety Richard H. Moore in Governor James B. Hunt's administration and was appointed by President Bill Clinton to serve as public affairs special assistant to U.S. Transportation Secretary Federico Peña. She is also a former press secretary to U.S. Rep. John W. Olver and U.S. Sen. John F. Kerry, both of Massachusetts.

Ms. Walden serves Fidelity as a founding member of the Women's Networking Group as well as regional executive for the Aspire Resource Group for African American and Latino employees. In the community, she is a past chair of the board of directors for the NC Center for Public Policy Research and is on the boards of the NC Chamber and the Research Triangle Park Foundation Board. With a passion for teacher professional development in financial literacy, Leslie leads strategic planning for the NC Council for Economic Education board.

She lives with her husband, realtor Jay Walden, two teenaged sons and a new rescue puppy in Chatham County, N.C. In her spare time, she like Broadway musicals, paddle boarding at Lake Gaston and binging Real Housewives of Practically Any City.