

Hon. Lauren Beth Gash holds a law degree from Georgetown University Law Center, where she served as Associate Editor of the American Criminal Law Review. As an undergraduate at Clark University, she majored in Psychology. Recently, she has been a Commissioner with the Illinois Human Rights Commission. Prior to that, she served four terms in the Illinois House of Representatives, where she chaired the Judiciary Committee and worked with then-State Senator Barack Obama on several pieces of legislation. She was also Vice-Chair of the Elections and Campaign Reform Committee.

Lauren was a member of the Electoral College on behalf of President Obama in 2008 and 2012, and on behalf of Hillary Clinton in 2016. She was an elected Delegate to the Democratic National Convention several times. Lauren previously worked in Washington, D.C., and has served on the staffs of U.S. Senators Alan Dixon and Paul Simon.

Lauren is a life-long community organizer who has served on numerous not-for-profit boards, including the League of Women Voters, PTA and the Anti-Defamation League. She is a former volunteer attorney at Prairie State Legal Services.

In her race for Congress as the Democratic nominee in a Republican district, Lauren garnered 49% of the vote. She went on to become the Founding Chair of the Tenth Congressional District Democrats (Tenth Dems), a grassroots organization dedicated to building a strong Democratic infrastructure in Chicago's northern and northwestern suburbs.

The group's Tenth Dems University regularly hosts nationally recognized speakers and other committees help local residents through such efforts as Tenth Dems' Job Interview Workshops, Expungement and Sealing Events with volunteer attorneys, and Annual Student Poetry and Prose Contests. The Tenth Dems Election Protection Team put 125 lawyers at polling places throughout the 10th District in November, working to make sure that everyone who is entitled to vote is actually allowed to vote. Volunteers put into action the group's motto that "Politics should be about more than just elections; it should be about working together to build stronger communities."

Lauren lives in Highland Park and is married to Gregg Garmisa. They have two adult children – Sarah, who uses her MBA and Master of Public Policy degrees to work toward social justice with not-for-profit organizations, and Ben, who serves as the Communications Director for U.S. Senator Tammy Duckworth on Capitol Hill.