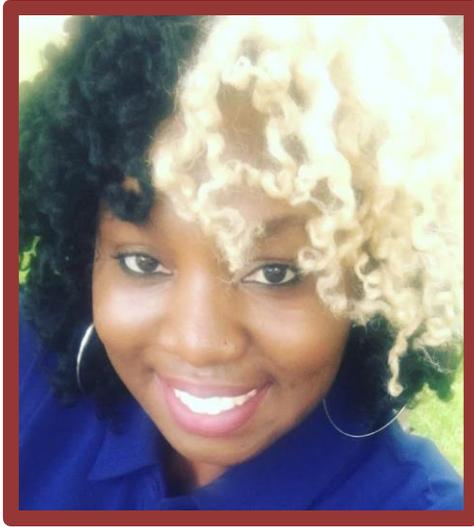


## Diana E. Lemon Biography

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In 1999, at the age of 15, Diana joined The Hip Hop Project, a NYC after school program, funded by Russell Simmons's Rush Philanthropic Arts Foundation: The Hip Hop Project (Art Start) is an award-winning arts-based education organization that engages and empowers the voices of young people through innovative programming, multimedia activism, mentorship, and community service projects. Her involvement created a foundation for her to explore and learn both the creative and business side of music. Before graduating from high school Diana was paving a path of success, working as an intern at various companies such as Columbia Records, PNB Nation, Loud Records, and The Source Magazine. After graduating from Ossining High School, she developed her own music business workshop series called 90/10: Its More Business Than Music. Successor to her mentor, Chris "Kazi" Rolle, she went on to become Program Director of The Hip Hop Project for several years where she became vastly experienced in youth development.

The leadership positions into which Diana was placed at such a young age prepared her greatly for the roles she would play in the next phase of her life; that of advocate, speaker and most importantly, mother and caregiver. Diana's most important accomplishment was giving birth to an incredible baby girl who she named Dream, in 2004. Bringing forth that wonderful feminine energy into the world, inspired Diana greatly to surround Dream with a message of "limitless empowerment." Diana would constantly draw upon this message as a source of encouragement during many difficult moments of Dream's life, when she suffered from terrible bouts of illnesses (including having a stroke at the age of five) that were related the congenital illness, Sickle Cell Disease, which ailed her from birth.

Armed with the knowledge that "anything is possible," Diana balanced her mothering duties with her responsibilities as a full-time student, full time employee, with a commitment to advocating for the empowerment of other women, and opening up doors of possibilities for them. Her passion for feminine empowerment led her to the development of a relationship with Girls Inc, where Diana mentored teenage girls, and promoted a general message of confidence via self esteem workshops, and speaking engagements.

Currently, Diana takes care of, and advocates daily, on behalf of her daughter, who underwent a Stem Cell transplant in December of 2014. The process, which required Dream to undergo a lengthy process that included very aggressive Chemotherapy, was made possible by the grace of God, who saw fit for Diana to be Dream's perfect genetic match, who in turn, could donate the Stem Cells that would literally significantly lengthen, and alter the course of her child's life. Today, Dream is over two years' post-transplant healthy and happy as a student at Anne M. Dorner Middle School and a Girl Scout in her community of Ossining. Diana has an impressive dossier of accomplishments and acknowledgments, but none of them compare to her role as "Dream's Mom."

Diana has been featured in Essence Magazine as People Shaping The World, Simon & Schuster's, Every Girl Tells a Story, by Carolyn Jones and Girls Scouts of the USA, as well as, a feature length documentary film "The Hip Hop Project", executive produced by Bruce Willis and Queen Latifah (2007). Since 2012, she has also been a volunteer member of the Westchester Medical Center's Maria Fareri Children's Hospital Family Advisory Council. She is a graduate of Mercy College and holds a Baccalaureate of Science degree in Legal Studies with a specialization in Paralegal Studies. She has also accepted a seat as alumni on Mercy College's Paralegal Advisory Committee and recently Westchester Community College's Paralegal Advisory Committee. She is also the current NAACP Branch President for Ossining, NY. After her journey as a transplant patient caregiver she decided to work side by side with her District Senator David Carlucci and Assemblywoman Sandy Galef on Bill S1165 which enacts the "Dream Law" after her daughter; deems central venous lines as medically necessary; requires hospitals upon discharge of a patient who medically needs a central venous line after discharge, to consult with the designated caregiver to determine his or her capabilities and limitations.

She is currently the Director of Legal and Community Relations at the Westchester County Bar Association.