

Jackie Senkandwa, Profiled By Influential Women, Connects Financial Expertise With A Mission For Economic Empowerment

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-- Financial Services Professional and Co-
Founder of Minority Wealth Gap
Combines Regulatory Expertise,
Community Service, and a Deep
Commitment to Creating Sustainable
Opportunities For Underserved
Communities

Los Angeles, California – For more than 14 years, Jackie Senkandwa has developed a career grounded in financial oversight, auditing, compliance, and accountability while simultaneously cultivating a strong commitment to community service. As a financial services professional based in Los Angeles, California, Jackie has built extensive experience working within complex



financial environments, where accuracy, integrity, and attention to detail are essential. Alongside her professional career, she serves as Co-Founder of Minority Wealth Gap, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization focused on helping individuals and communities move toward greater economic stability and opportunity.

Jackie's professional background includes financial analysis, audit execution, compliance monitoring, and the application of regulatory requirements to real-world business operations. In her current role as a Senior Examiner in Financial Services, she brings a practical and solutions-oriented approach to assessing financial environments and supporting strong internal controls and regulatory compliance. Her career has been shaped by a consistent commitment to maintaining high standards while identifying opportunities to strengthen operational effectiveness.

Her credentials reflect that dedication to continued professional development. Jackie is a Certified Public Accountant and a Certified Application Specialist Level II through the Conference of State Bank Supervisors. She has also pursued education in areas that are increasingly relevant to the modern workplace, including Career Essentials in Generative AI through Microsoft and LinkedIn, Introduction to Artificial Intelligence, Ethics in the Age of Generative AI, and Learning Microsoft 365 Copilot, as well as Streamlining Your Work with Copilot. She has additionally been recognized as an Honored Listee with Marquis Who's Who.

Yet for Jackie, professional success is only one part of a much larger picture. Her work with Minority Wealth Gap reflects a longstanding belief that economic opportunity can serve as a powerful foundation for greater stability, independence, and resilience.

Jackie's journey into nonprofit work began informally, through helping individuals secure better-paying employment opportunities. What started as a personal effort to connect people with opportunities eventually developed into a structured mission focused on addressing economic disparities. As Minority Wealth Gap evolved, the organization expanded its efforts to support women and survivors of domestic violence through a holistic approach that goes beyond any one immediate need.

The organization's work includes employment opportunities, financial literacy, housing resources, and entrepreneurship development. Through partnerships with domestic violence support networks, housing collaboratives, and financial education foundations, Jackie contributes to an ecosystem designed to help individuals navigate immediate challenges while also working toward long-term financial stability.

This holistic perspective has become central to how Jackie understands leadership.

Jackie attributes much of her success to the meaningful work she has done through Minority Wealth Gap and the perspective that experience has given her. Supporting domestic violence survivors while addressing employment, housing, financial education, and entrepreneurship has reinforced for her that meaningful solutions must account for both immediate circumstances and long-term stability.

As the organization has grown beyond its original focus on domestic violence to respond to broader economic challenges facing underserved communities, Jackie has continued to develop both personally and professionally. Through each stage, she has remained guided by a commitment to creating access, opportunity, and sustainable pathways for others.

That commitment is also reflected in the career advice she carries with her. Jackie's guiding principle is that a successful and meaningful career can be created by helping the people within one's community. For her, achievement is not limited to personal advancement. It is also measured by the positive impact a person can have on the lives of others.

This philosophy informs her advice to young women entering the financial services industry. Jackie encourages them to remain observant and intentional about the needs around them. Rather than becoming so focused on personal advancement that they overlook others, she believes professionals should pay attention to who may need support and look for ways to help.

For Jackie, paying it forward has benefits that extend beyond any individual interaction. Supporting others strengthens communities while also developing character, perspective, and lasting professional relationships. In her view, an industry becomes stronger when people recognize that professional success and service to others do not have to exist separately.

Her perspective has become especially relevant as economic uncertainty and social challenges intersect in ways that disproportionately affect vulnerable populations.

Jackie believes one of the greatest challenges facing organizations working with underserved communities is the abrupt convergence of unemployment, housing insecurity, and exhausted safety nets. These pressures can compound one another, leaving families with fewer options and potentially trapping women in vulnerable or dangerous circumstances.

She is particularly concerned about the effect these challenges can have on women whose financial instability may be directly connected to questions of personal safety and housing security. For organizations already responding to domestic violence, shifting resources to address the broader consequences of economic disruption can be exhausting. At the same time, Jackie sees these circumstances as a reminder of why leadership and community collaboration are so important.

Another challenge she identifies is the public rhetoric surrounding immigrant and underserved communities. Jackie believes harmful narratives can create a persistent psychological and public relations battle for communities that are often working simply to survive, contribute, and create better lives.

In response, she sees several opportunities for meaningful action.

One is the opportunity to promote what she describes as a “builder” narrative. Jackie believes communities should be understood through their contributions, resilience, work ethic, and diverse perspectives rather than through stereotypes that portray them as exploiters. She sees value in emphasizing the ways people contribute to the strength and vitality of the broader community.

She also sees an opportunity for greater collaboration. Businesses, civic leaders, nonprofit organizations, and other groups committed to economic stability and human dignity can work together around shared goals. For Jackie, the scale of current challenges makes division particularly unproductive and creates a strong argument for finding common ground.

A third opportunity is the development of more holistic resource hubs. As economic hardship increasingly intersects with domestic violence, employment, housing, and financial insecurity, Jackie believes support systems should evolve accordingly. Immediate safety and advocacy can be paired with workforce integration, digital and data literacy, financial empowerment, and entrepreneurship resources to help people transition from survival toward genuine economic self-sufficiency.

This vision reflects Jackie's understanding of leadership as something measured not by numbers or grand statements, but by individual lives.

She believes real leadership begins with a refusal to remain on the sidelines when a solution is needed. Even the smallest action can change the trajectory of one person's life, and in Jackie's view, that alone can make the effort worthwhile. Waiting for perfect conditions is not a strategy she embraces. Instead, she believes leaders should step into the gap and become part of the solution.

At the center of that philosophy is active contribution over complacency. Jackie places particular importance on being involved, taking responsibility, and doing what can be done with the resources available.

Unity and co-creation are equally important. In a cultural environment often marked by division, Jackie believes there is a need for voices that de-escalate hostility and encourage peace. She views differences in background and heritage not as forces that must separate communities, but as characteristics that can strengthen society when approached with fairness, respect, and mutual understanding.

Her belief in community also extends to the concept of legacy.

As a mother, Jackie sees leadership as inseparable from the example a person sets for the next generation. Watching her children pursue new challenges, whether through sports such as volleyball and football or through academic milestones such as receiving private school scholarships, has provided her with a deeply personal measure of success.

For Jackie, those moments demonstrate that the values practiced through professional and community life can ultimately return to the family and influence the next generation. The effort invested in protecting, supporting, and empowering others is part of creating an environment in which children can pursue opportunities of their own.

That idea captures the broader philosophy behind Jackie's work. Financial services, nonprofit leadership, advocacy, and family may appear to represent different areas of life, but for Jackie they are interconnected by the same fundamental principles: integrity, contribution, opportunity, unity, and responsibility.

Her professional experience gives her the technical foundation to understand complex financial systems, while her nonprofit work keeps that expertise connected to the realities faced by people and families navigating economic hardship. Together, these experiences have shaped a leadership approach that emphasizes practical solutions, meaningful collaboration, and long-term empowerment.

Jackie's message remains consistent: people and communities should have the opportunity not only to survive difficult circumstances, but to create sustainable futures. Through Minority Wealth Gap, her financial services career, and her broader commitment to community, she continues to focus on turning that belief into meaningful action—one individual, one family, and one opportunity at a time.

Learn More about Jackie Senkandwa:

Through her Influential Women profile, <https://influentialwomen.com/connect/jackie-senkandwa> or through her website, <https://www.minoritywealthgap.org/>

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