

KEMBA SMITH PRADIA

INTRODUCTION

Growing up as an only child in Richmond, Virginia, Kemba Smith graduated high school and continued her education at the prestigious Hampton University. What happened to Kemba in her new campus environment was a nightmare, and led to a 24.5-year sentence in a federal prison. In December 2000, after serving 6.5 years, President Clinton commuted her sentence to time served.

Kemba shares her traumatic real-life experience in her book, "Poster Child: The Kemba Smith Story."

Kemba is a graduate of Virginia Union University and was a past recipient of a two-year Soros Justice Postgraduate Fellowship for advocates. In December 2014, Kemba was appointed a member of the Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission by Governor Terry McAuliffe. She has spoken at the White House and testified before Congress and the United Nations regarding a variety of criminal justice issues including crack cocaine sentencing, mandatory drug sentencing, women and incarceration, felony disenfranchisement, and re-entry.

She has received numerous awards and recognitions for her courage and determination to educate the public about the devastating consequences of current drug policies and for her commitment to serving young people.

Please join me in welcoming Kemba Smith Pradia