



## Arizona LGBTQIA+ Archives®©

### White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre Archives®



The day Karine Jean-Pierre a Lesbian stepped behind the podium as White House Press Secretary and led the White House briefing it was a moment in its way historic.

Jean-Pierre, the principal White House Press Secretary and an Out Lesbian, was the first known LGBTQ+ person to take questions on behalf of a presidential administration in the press briefing room. Jean-Pierre the daughter of Haitian immigrant parents, was also the first Black woman to perform that role in 30 years. In 1991 Judy Smith, a Lesbian led a briefing for

the George H.W. Bush administration as the former president's special assistant and deputy press secretary.

During Obama's first term, Karine Jean-Pierre worked in the White House Office of Political Affairs, a position said was important to her as a Lesbian. Prior serving as the Chief Public Affairs Officer at the organization MoveOn, a public policy advocacy group, and as a political analyst at NBC and MSNBC, Karine Jean-Pierre published her memoir book, *Moving Forward: A Story of Hope, Hard Work, and the Promise of America*.

In that book, Karine Jean-Pierre proves there is space for everyone in politics, no matter what you might think of as the typical background or narrative for a politician. *"If a queer female immigrant could find success in politics"*, she says in her book, *"then so can you."* To celebrate the release of the book, Jean-Pierre discussed with news reporters about being a Lesbian mom, how queerness has affected her career, and things she has realized working for numerous politicians that included former President Obama.

Stepping into the role of former Biden Administration Press Secretary Jen Psaki; Jean-Pierre cheerfully acknowledged the milestone moment. *"I appreciate the historic nature,"* she told a reporter. *"I really do, but I believe that being behind this podium, being in this room, being in this building is not about one person. It's about what we do on behalf of the American people."*

The former chief public affairs officer for the organization MoveOn, Jean-Pierre [had made history](#) several times during her first few months with the Biden administration. Soon brought in [as the chief of staff](#) for Kamala Harris during Biden's 2020 presidential campaign that made her the first Lesbian and LGBTQ+ person to ever serve in the job. That also included being the first Immigrant, Black Lesbian, and Queer principal deputy press secretary.

Jean-Pierre time in the White House reflects President Joe Biden's commitments to equality on many levels. During the first day in office, President Biden signed a memo instructing all branches of the federal government to investigate claims of Anti-LGBTQ+ Bias and ended the former president Trump banning of Transgender people serving in all branches of the United States Military just a few days later.

*"Clearly the president believes that representation matters, and I appreciate him giving me this opportunity,"* she said, *"and it's another reason why I think we are all so proud that this is the most diverse administration in history,"* noted White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre.

