

EXCEPTIONAL WOMEN AWARDEES NEWSLETTER

BY LARRAINE SEGIL

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*Featuring: Voviette Morgan,
FBI, Special Agent in Charge,
Los Angeles*



Think of the FBI and you can't help but think of danger and crisis. Not the ideal environment for anyone but today we're going to hear from one exceptional leader at the FBI who's learned to thrive in chaotic times—Voviette Morgan.

With over 24 years at the FBI, and currently the Special Agent in Charge of the Los Angeles bureau, Voviette is the highest-ranking African-American female at the Bureau. Although she never imagined a career in law enforcement, a chance meeting with an FBI agent 25 years ago and a willingness to keep her options open changed Voviette's whole career trajectory from political consultancy to public service.

Voviette is also an Exceptional Woman Awardee (EWA), part of a community I created of high-level, high-potential women to support, mentor, and elevate

each other. In this newsletter, I'll shine a spotlight on one of these truly amazing EWA leaders. I know they will inspire you with their unique backgrounds, experiences, and expertise.

Today, let's hear some of Voviette's key strategies for leading in a crisis.

Become comfortable in very uncomfortable situations.

"It's interesting for me in the FBI that chaos is our day-to-day activity; that we deal in crisis on a day-to-day basis. And the bottom line is the more you do it, the better you get at it. And you start to build a little bit of a muscle, if you will, in order to deal with challenging situations and deal within a crisis. And for me, that's probably one of the greatest gifts the FBI has given me—I've learned to become comfortable in very uncomfortable situations. The worst thing you can do in a crisis is freeze."

Realize there are no perfect decisions.

"I think what's important is that you have to be able to make decisions. And what you have to do in a crisis is realize there are no perfect decisions. You make the best decision that you can at the time, with the best information that you are provided. And what's also important is once you do start to make decisions, you have to be agile enough to pivot when it's appropriate. You have to realize you're not married to those decisions. You have to be able to adjust, be flexible, be fluid."

Care enough to learn from your people.

"Leading people is challenging. It's a little bit of trial and error, and you have to learn from your mistakes. Some of my biggest learning development is in managing people because when you've managed one person, you've managed one person. Personalities are very different. I think good leaders make adjustments because they take the time to learn about their people, their strengths, and their weaknesses. I think that is an example of caring for your people because people respond differently to leadership. It's very important to learn who your people are and to make adjustments, but you have to care enough to do that."

As turbulent as recent times have been for all of us, Voviette deals with chaos day after day, year after year. She is truly in the trenches of crisis. Her insights reveal true courage—the courage to be uncomfortable and not let that feeling paralyze you. This is a goal to which everyone can strive: **finding a new comfort level and call to action in the uncomfortable.**

To hear even more from Voviette, [watch the full EWA Live program](#) any time on our YouTube channel.

And I hope you'll join us for our next LinkedIn Live program on January 10, 2022 where we'll gain lots of great insights from our other Exceptional Women Awardees and take your questions as well.

Until next time,

Lorraine

Founder, Chair, & CEO
Exceptional Women Awardees Foundation

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EWA | 1880 Century Park East, Suite 200, 1880 Century Park East, Suite ,
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