

A native of Red Springs, North Carolina, Sonja Rochell Pearson has called Atlanta home for her entire adult life. She was reared in a home of profound love and spiritual discipline by her grandmothers, Emma, Inez, and Birdie, her grandfather, Evangelist Jackson P. English; her Uncle Edward, and her father, Neal. Growing up in a close-knit family, her life was shaped by the wisdom of her elders and a centralized belief in Christ, cultivated within the Church of Christ, where her grandfather served as the founding minister of the South Lumberton Church of Christ.

Sonja always had a passion for children, even as a teen when she assisted her Grandmother, Birdie, in the preparation and teaching of the church's children and youth classes. As she grew older, she began singing and teaching in the Ladies' Bible Class. She would continue teaching and speaking at various Ladies Day events for several years.

During her teenage years, Sonja discovered an interest in pursuing a career in law. This pursuit led to a distinguished, decades-long career as a paralegal, serving in various capacities within the courts and private sector of law. As she grew older and after experiencing her own witness to the imbalance of the judicial system, she developed an even deeper calling to pursue the law.

Driven by a desire for academic excellence, she earned her Bachelor of Arts from the University of North Carolina at Pembroke, in Criminal Justice /Sociology, two Master's degrees from Walden University—Public Administration (2018) and Criminal Justice (2020)—graduating with honors as a member of The National Society of Leadership and Success (NSLS) and Marquis Who's Who.

Currently, Sonja is a law student at Atlanta's John Marshall Law School. Her academic focus is on civil rights and defense, with a particular emphasis on advocating for the underprivileged. She believes her extensive personal and professional experience within the legal system serves as a powerful testament to the journey of resilience, justice, and faith she shares with many.

Beyond her legal career, Sonja is a life member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated. She has maintained a prominent presence in sports media for a decade. A keen NFL enthusiast and dedicated supporter of the Carolina Panthers, she founded "*The Official Carolina Pantherettes*," the official all-ladies fan club of the team, where she combines ladies' love of football with community service. Sonja is also a board member of the United Professional Football Fans Club of Atlanta, where she meets with other fan club creators for community outreach and fellowship. Sonja is the creator and host of nationally streamed "*Prim and Proper Sports*," where she has the honor of meeting and interviewing celebrity athletes from across the US. Notwithstanding her demanding professional commitments, she maintains her close relationships with family and friends and her cherished seven-year-old Yorkipoo, Lawson Snickers. Sonja strives to incorporate her love of Jesus and faith in all that she does, her belief is "God has a plan, I'm just here to execute it."