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Ellen Brown is a Principal in the Atlanta office of Heidrick & Struggles and specializes in senior level search assignments within the higher education and nonprofit area, as well as in the legal functional area. Ellen has conducted senior level assignments for clients in higher education, legal positions in corporations, government agencies, and nonprofit organizations. Ellen has conducted presidential searches for the University of Illinois at Chicago, Howard University, the University of Iowa, Hanover College and the University of New Hampshire. She has also led searches for the President of the MasterCard Foundation, the President of the Legal Services Corporation, Dean of the School of Nursing at Emory University, Executive Director of the Tubman African American Museum and Dean of the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University. Ellen joined Heidrick & Struggles in 1996 and has held internal leadership positions at the firm, including Associate Director in the Atlanta office.

Prior to joining Heidrick & Struggles, Ellen served as Assistant General Counsel for the State Bar of Georgia handling a wide variety of legal and policy issues for the Bar. Ellen also practiced law as an Associate with Smith, Gambrell & Russell where her practice focused on commercial litigation.

Ellen received a B.A. (with honors) in History and Politics from Wake Forest University. She subsequently earned her J.D. from the University of Georgia School of Law, where she served as President of the Student Bar Association. She has also completed "Governing for Non-Profit Excellence" at the Harvard Business School. She remains actively involved in professional and community activities serving as a board member and current Chair of the Georgia Justice Project, a past member of the Wake Forest Alumni Council, and past President of the Atlanta Wake Forest Alumni Club. Ellen is also a member of the Atlanta Bar Association, the State Bar of Georgia and the American Bar Association.