Dr. Dawn Jourdan is the Dean of the University of Maryland's School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation. She is a land use attorney, city planner, and academic. Dawn has held academic appointments at Texas A&M University, the University of Florida and the University of Oklahoma. Operating between these disciplines, Dawn has capitalized on the opportunity to influence the planning practice through the dissemination of scholarship and technical assistance to future planners, developers, and lawyers. In the past decade, Dr. Jourdan has been widely published in a variety of academic journals and law reviews. Dawn's research has been funded by a number of entities, including federal, State, and local agencies and non-profit groups, like the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, National Estuarine Research Reserve System Science Collaborative, Florida Sea Grant, the Florida Department of Transportation, the Brazos Valley Affordable Housing Corporation, the Beaumont Public Housing Authority, Chicksaw Nation, and the International Sign Association. Dawn, along with her co-author Eric Strauss, published "Planning for Wicked Problems: A Planner's Guide to Land Use Law" with Taylor and Francis in 2015. She served as Chair of the Academic Advisory Council for Signage Research and Education from December 2015 to October 2017. Dawn was the founding editor of the Interdisciplinary Journal for Signage Research and Education. She is currently a co-editor for the Journal of Planning Education and Research.