



# DR. ALEXIS KIRKLAND-MILLER, DDS

## DC Dental Client Profile

We sat down to chat with Dr. Alexis Kirkland-Miller, DDS in her newly completed Bowie practice. The following are excerpts from that conversation.

**DC Dental:** What motivated you to go into dentistry?

**Dr. Kirkland-Miller:** Interestingly enough, I received my Bachelors of Science in finance and started my career with the investment bank Lehman Brothers. The main office was in the World Financial Center across the street from the World Trade Center. On 9/11, I was in our Jersey City location, directly across the Hudson River from Lower Manhattan. Seeing this horrific event transpire before my eyes - I saw the second plane hit the tower from the office window - made me think more about family and where my time was invested. I was spending a lot of long hours at work and living through 9/11 made me reevaluate life.

My cousin, who was a general dentist, seemed to have the best of both worlds. He had his own successful dental practice in addition to having plenty of time to spend with family. Knowing I was looking for a career change, he

suggested dentistry. Although I will admit I was a bit hesitant at first, it is certainly one of the best choices I've ever made.

**DC Dental:** How do you make your patients feel comfortable with the prospect of braces?

**Dr. Kirkland-Miller:** Actually, many patients are excited to have braces. On the occasion where we have someone who is anxious and concerned about how the process works, my staff and I reassure them by explaining each step as we go. Fortunately, or unfortunately, depending on how you look at it, most of the discomfort associated with braces usually occurs after the patients leave the office. We inform them of what they should expect and follow up with care calls to all our new patients, to ensure they are doing well and to answer any additional questions. Both the adults and adolescent patients are generally very receptive to orthodontic treatment.

**DC Dental:** To date what are you most proud of in your dental career?

**Dr. Kirkland-Miller:** I'd say the decision to enter the field of dentistry. I am proud that I challenged myself and made the sacrifice to quit my job and go back to school, to pursue a career that would positively affect people. What I like about orthodontics particularly is that patients appreciate the results. It's a little bit different - while general dentist are absolutely essential to your health - sometimes patients go to the dentist and are unsure of what they had done. Whereas as an orthodontist, I am fortunate to have the ability to increase my patient's self esteem by improving their smile. It's so rewarding to see the shy patient who hides their teeth, change to a confident person who holds their head up and smiles from ear to ear. I love the fact that I am able to give someone a beautiful smile and confidence to last a life time.

**DC Dental:** How do you use your skills to give back?

**Dr. Kirkland-Miller:** Bowie Braces is actively involved in our local schools. I just spoke to a few health classes at Bowie High School and a few middle schools for Dental Health Awareness month. In an effort to continue to support the community that supports us we have started our 1st annual contest to win free braces. We do not want financial constraints to be a hindrance to a student who may really need and want orthodontic treatment. So in this contest students will submit a creative video explaining why they want braces and how it may change and impact their lives. I know my mom would have loved that when I was a teenager.

**DC Dental:** How did you hear about DC Dental and Eddie Ash (*Design and Equipment Specialist*)?

**Dr. Kirkland-Miller:** Eddie Ash and DC Dental came highly recommended from two colleagues, Dr. Maya Oliver and Dr. Kathy Wiltshire. I loved the fact that he had several years of experience with building dental offices and was almost like a one-stop shop. Not only did he offer equipment, but he also offered consulting services. He was really an incremental part of my entire build out process. Even with my background in business, my expertise was still at moving teeth. Dental school did not prepare me for all the decisions required for starting a practice or project management. Eddie was informative, very warm, patient, and always willing to answer all of my questions. He even found a reputable contractor to help facilitate the construction process. I've heard horror stories about the process of building a new office, but working with DC Dental has truly been a wonderful experience. ☺

**Looking into a design or equipment project?**  
Eddie Ash can be reached via email at [eddie.ash@dcdental.com](mailto:eddie.ash@dcdental.com) or directly at 410.804.6609.

### QUICK BITES

**What's your guilty pleasure?**  
Okay, let's see...the show Scandal on TV. I'm attending a Scandal debut party on Thursday because it's coming back on.

**What is your dream car?**  
It does not exist, but I would love a Range Rover with a third row seating. I'm not a minivan mom. I have not transitioned or accepted that role yet.

**What is your Signature Dish:**  
My apple pie and mac and cheese. If we're doing family dishes and everyone has to bring something, those are my "go-tos"



### Alexis Kirkland-Miller, DDS

Bowie Braces  
Bowie, MD  
[www.bowiebraces.com](http://www.bowiebraces.com)  
301.383.0514

**Project Description:**  
Site assessment services, Design, Architectural/Engineering, Interior Design Services, Summit Dental Systems chair packages, MyRay Digital Pan/Ceph, Tuttnauer Autoclave, DentalEZ Mechanical Room Equipment i.e. Air Compressor, Evacuation System, O-So-Pure Water Purification System.

**Hometown:**  
Brooklyn, New York

**Family:**  
Married, Daughter, 10, Son, 5

**Education:**  
Undergraduate  
University of Maryland College Park, MD

D.D.S.  
Howard University Washington, D.C.

Orthodontic Certificate  
Howard University Washington, D.C.

