

TONI E. CLARKE

Associate Judge, Seventh Judicial Circuit, Circuit Court for Prince George's County, Maryland
Biography

Toni E. Clarke was appointed to the Seventh Judicial Circuit sitting in the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, Maryland on January 8, 1998. Judge Clarke presides over many types of cases including, but not limited to, Civil, Criminal, Family and Juvenile and is the Coordinating Judge for Foreclosure Cases in her Court. She has also served as an Adjunct Professor for the Prince George's County Community College.

Judge Clarke worked her way through Law School, as a paralegal for Goldstein & Baron and as a Law Clerk to the Honorable Arthur M. Ahalt, Circuit Court for Prince George's County, Maryland. Judge Clarke became an Associate County Attorney for Prince George's County, Maryland immediately after passing the Bar, and in May, 1989, she began working in the private sector as an Associate at Thompson, Hine and Flory, later as a Partner at Krauser & Taub, P.C. and thereafter as Of Counsel at Reichelt, Nussbaum, LaPlaca & Miller, only interrupted from 9/94 to 1/95, when she served as State's Attorney for Prince George's County, Maryland, the first African-American woman in Prince George's County and the State of Maryland to hold this position.

Judge Clarke received her J.D. from the University of Maryland School of Law and her B.S. from the Pennsylvania State University, where she played on the Women's Varsity Basketball team. Prior to becoming a Judge, Judge Clarke was admitted to practice in Maryland (1986); U.S. District Court of Maryland (1988); U.S. Fourth Circuit (1993); Virginia (1993); U.S. Supreme Court (1996); U.S. District Court for Virginia, Eastern and Western Districts (1997).

Judge Clarke has been very active in many bar associations. She served as President of the J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association; was the first African-American woman to serve as President of the Women's Bar Association of Maryland, Inc.; and was the first African American to serve as President of the Prince George's County Bar Association.

She has also served on or Chaired many committees in other Associations, including the Maryland State Bar Association, having served on its Board of Governors and Chaired its Leadership Academy; the National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ) where she has served as its Delegate to the House of Delegates of the American Bar Association (2014-2017), formerly Chair of the Maryland Chapter and District Director of District 4 (2013-20115; and within the American Bar Association (ABA), currently, Judge Clarke has been on several committees of the Judicial Division of the American Bar Association, and is a past Chair of the Standing Committee on Diversity in the Judiciary and Past-Chair of the Judicial Clerkship Program (a diversity program), and is a Past-Chair of the National Conference of State Trial Judges (NCSTJ) of the Judicial Division of the American Bar Association. Judge Clarke is on the Board of Trustees of the National Judicial College where she is serving her third term, and is a Past-Chair of the Judicial

Division of the American Bar Association. She is currently, serving as the NCSTJ HOD Delegate, completing the balance of the term of the previous Delegate's term.

Judge Clarke has been recognized by numerous organizations for her hard work, community involvement, and mentoring. She recently received the Rita C. Davidson Award (2009), the highest honor by the Women's Bar Association of Maryland; and has received other awards such as: the Daily Record's 2004 Leadership in the Law Award, 2001 and 1999 Maryland's Top 100 Women; 2000 Wilde Lake High School Hall of Fame; 2000 Howard County Women's Athletic Hall of Fame; 1998 Women of Achievement in Maryland History; 1997 Distinguished Woman Award from the Alliance of Black Women Attorneys of Maryland; and the 1994/95 President's Award – Prince George's County Bar Association, Inc..

In her spare time, Judge Clarke has coached the Girls Varsity Basketball Team at her *alma mater*, Wilde Lake High School, in Columbia, Maryland, and St. Mathias' Girls' Basketball Team in the CYO Basketball League. Her other interests include traveling, reading, and playing many sports.