

Justice Betty J. Williams



Justice Betty J. Williams was elected November 2013, to New York State Supreme Court, having been appointed an Acting Supreme Court Justice March 31, 2009. Following her November 2009 election to Civil Court, Justice Williams was assigned to Kings County Criminal Court where she presided in the Arraignment Parts, All Purpose Parts, Domestic Violence Parts, Trial Parts and Jury 1. Before Justice Williams was assigned to Supreme Court in 2014, she presided in the Misdemeanor Brooklyn Treatment Court (MBTC) and Part 70 (felony), Kings County Criminal Court. MBTC and Part 70 follow the national drug court model, where long term substance abuse offenders are given the opportunity to receive treatment instead of incarceration. Justice Williams was assigned to New State Supreme Court, Criminal Term, Kings County in January 2014.

Community Involvement and Public Service:

Justice Williams is the National Association of Women Justices (NAWJ) District Two Director (NY, VT, CT), Co-Chairperson of the NAWJ Women in Prison Committee and Chairperson Emeritus of the New York Chapter's Women in Prison Committee. Justice Williams has organized, facilitated, and participated in numerous workshops for incarcerated persons addressing topics such as Parole Issues, Non Traditional Jobs for Women and Housing, Collateral Consequences of Criminal Convictions, Re-Entry and other motivational topics at correctional facilities for women throughout New York State, including Bayview, Taconic, Beacon, and Albion Correctional Facilities. Justice Williams played an instrumental role in opening the Kings County Criminal Court Career and Education Center on September 25, 2009, and the Brooklyn Youth General Equivalency Diploma Program on March 1, 2010, where more than 20 students have received their General Equivalency Diploma.

Public and Community Service Awards:

Justice Williams is the recipient of numerous public and community service awards, including: Hall of Fame Inductee, Brewer High School National Alumni Association, Inc., 2013; NAACP Legal Leadership Award, 2012, NAACP Brooklyn Branch; Citation for Public Service, 2012, Borough of Brooklyn, Office of the President; Civic Honoree, 2012, Grace Baptist Church of Christ; Woman of Distinction Award, 2010, New Life Tabernacle, UPC; the Justice Vaino Spencer Leadership Award, 2009, The National Association of Women Justices; the Community Service and Leadership Award from the Brooklyn – East New York and Brownsville Homeowners Association, 2009; the Outstanding Achievement Award from the New York Law School Black Association of Law School Students, 2008; and the National Sojourner Truth Meritorious Service Award from the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc., Brooklyn Club, 2007.

Professional Memberships:

National Association of Women Judges
The Judicial Friends
The New York City Bar Association
National Bar Association
Brooklyn Bar Association
Metropolitan Black Bar Association
New York State Bar Association
Nathan R. Sobel Kings County American Inn of Court
Association of Criminal Court Judges

Academic Background:

Justice Williams is a graduate of New York Law School, where she was the first woman to receive the Abraham Markoff Scholarship Award from the New York State Bar Association, Worker's Compensation Division. Justice Williams is also a graduate of North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, Greensboro, North Carolina and Columbia University, New York, New York (Masters in Social Work). She is the proud mother of one son, Dennis Lorenzo; three granddaughters, Tiffany, Destin and Chaz and one great granddaughter, Candence Amiya.