

Hon. Marcella A. Holland
Senior Judge (Ret.)
Circuit Court of Baltimore City

Marcella A. Holland is a 1980 graduate of the University of Maryland - Baltimore County, majoring in Political Science; and a 1983 graduate of the University of Maryland School of Law, receiving the Alumni Association Prize.

Upon her admission to the Bar in December 1983, Marcella A. Holland was sworn in as an Assistant State's Attorney for Baltimore City and remained there for 13 years, the last 9 years assigned to the Economic Crimes Unit, before appointment on September 18, 1997 as Associate Judge on the Circuit Court for Baltimore City. In March, 2001, she became Judge in Charge of the Domestic Docket. On November 8, 2003, Judge Holland began her appointment as Administrative Judge of the Circuit Court for Baltimore City, the first African American woman to hold that position in the state of Maryland. As Administrative Judge, she handled operations in 3 judicial buildings, managed a budget of approximately \$15 million, staff of hundreds and 16 Masters, and 32 associate judges, in addition to media relations, governmental relations and planning for a new criminal courthouse. Judge Holland retired from this position as an active judge on November 30, 2013, but as a Senior Judge continues to sit occasionally in the Circuit Court for Baltimore City.

Throughout her legal and judicial career, Judge Holland has had very active community involvement. Among her many activities, past and present, are: Joshua Johnson Council, Baltimore Museum of Art, Druid Hill Y.M.C.A. (Board of Manager, 1989-1995); Bridge Beyond Bars Advisory Committee, Girl Scouts, 2003-, (Chair, Advisory Committee, 2015-); Board of Visitors, UM Law School, 2008-2018 (Emeritus Member 2018-); Mayor Kurt Schmoke appointed her to the Commission on Historical and Architectural Preservation in April, 1988, of which she later became Chair, the first African American woman to hold that position, serving two terms. In addition to the above, she is a founding member of the Board of the Monumental City Bar Foundation, serving as Grants Committee Chair.

Judge Holland is an active Bar member, belonging to and serving in many capacities with various bar associations. She is a member of the American Bar Association; (Delegate and member of the Executive Committee, National Conference of State Trial Judges; Chair, various JD committees, including Courts & Community Relations, 2018-19, member and participant in Judicial clerkship Program; Co-Chair, Standing Committee on Diversity, 2018-19); National Bar Association (Board of Governors, 1989-90, 1992-93; 2010-11), NBA Judicial Council Executive Committee member, 2004-2012; serving in various capacities culminating in election as Chair in August 2010); Maryland State Bar Association (Editorial Advisory Board, 1994-, Board of Governors, 2001-2003); Bar Association of Baltimore City; Monumental City Bar Association (President, 1991-92); Alliance of Black Women Attorneys. When she became a judge, Judge Holland joined the National Association of Women Judges and became President of the Maryland Chapter in June, 2000. She was elected Treasurer of NAWJ in 2013; has served consecutive two year terms as Project Committee Chair, served as Co-Chair in 2018 and 2019 of NAWJ's Congresswomen's Caucus; and as Finance Chair in the 2019-21 bar years.

Among Judge Holland's judicial activities, past and present: Co-Chair, Family Law Committee, 2002-2003; Member, Legislative Committee, 1999-2002; Judicial Council, 2006-2009; Justice Matters Editorial Board, 2002 -13, and Chair of the Conference of Circuit Court Judges, 2010-12, giving her a seat on the Judicial Council and membership in the Judicial Cabinet. Judge Holland has lectured on various aspects of family law, case management, judicial reform and handling cases involving self represented litigants

in her home state, other states and the country of Morocco.

Judge Holland has authored two articles published in the Maryland State Bar Journal: *Judicial Administration-A New Judge's Perspective* (July/August 1999), and *The Emergence of Maryland's African-American Women Attorneys* (July/August 1995). She was the subject of the November/December 2016 MSBA Journal article *Integration in a Post-Brown World: A Conversation with Judge Marcella A Holland*.

Judge Holland has received numerous awards and honors. Among her most prized awards are: *The Daily Record's* Maryland's Top 100 Women Award, 1998, 2000, 2004, inducted into the Circle of Excellence; Ben Cardin Pro Bono Service Award, University of Maryland School of Law, 2003; Alumna of the Year, University of Maryland B.L.S.A., 2004; the Margaret Brent-Juanita Jackson Mitchell Award, Bar Association of Baltimore City, 2004; Outstanding Alumni of the Year from UMBC, 2008; the Afro-American Newspaper Legends and Pioneers Award for Justice, 2010; Leadership in Law Award, the Daily Record, 2011; NBA Heman Sweatt Award, 2014; the highest award given by the NBA Judicial Council, the William H Hastie Award in 2015; and the Vaino Spencer Leadership Award, one of two highest awards given by the National Association of Women, 2018.