

Hon. Lourdes I. Santiago, J.S.C.(Ret.)

Judge Lourdes I. Santiago has been a Judge of the Superior Court in Hudson County, since April 11, 2003. Currently retired, she previously sat in the Family Division as a Children in Court Judge since September, 2015, and previously in Criminal Division as the Drug Court Judge and has also previously served in the Family, Civil and Chancery Parts. Prior to 2003, and since August 1, 1999, she was a partner at the law firm of Mark & Santiago, P.C. in Jersey City where she concentrated her practice in the areas of Immigration and Elder Law. Since July, 1990, Ms. Santiago, had been a partner in the law firm of Korona, Beides, Eaton, Mark & Santiago, P.A. She is a graduate of Rutgers School of Law, Newark, where she received her Juris Doctor degree. She completed her undergraduate degree at Douglass College, Rutgers University in New Brunswick. She was born in Aibonito, Puerto Rico and came to the United States at the age of six. She is the youngest of nine children and despite her travels out of the United States, she always returns to her hometown, Jersey City.

Prior to the Bench, she served as the Vice-President of Regions and Membership, and previously the Vice-President of External Affairs of the Hispanic National Bar Association. She served as Regional President of the HNBA from 1998 – 1999. She is also Past-President of the Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey. She has been the recipient of many awards and recognition citations including a 1999 Hispanic Heritage Award as the Hispanic Lawyer of the Year; the 1997 Congresswoman Mary T. Norton Memorial Award of Excellence presented by Hudson County United Way and recipient of an award for Outstanding Achievement in the Legal Field by Aspira, Inc. of New Jersey.

She also served on the New Jersey Supreme Court Committee on Women in the Courts, where she was reappointed and currently serves as Co-Chair of the Women of Color Subcommittee. In 2011, she served on the planning committee of the Conference for the National Association of Women Judges.

Her professional appointments have included an appointment to the Supreme Court IOLTA Board in 2001; the Task Force on Minority Concerns in 1994, with a second term appointment in 1996 to 1998. She served for over four years as a panel member of the Fee Arbitration Committee in Hudson County. She served two terms as a Trustee to the New Jersey State Bar Foundation; and previously served on the Executive Committee of the General Council of the New Jersey State Bar Association; and the Nominations Committee. She also served as Vice-president of the Hispanic National Bar Fund and as a Trustee on the New Jersey Hispanic Bar Foundation, as well as a member of the Task Force on Diversity of the New Jersey State Bar Association and five years as Trustee on the board of Hudson County Community College.

Currently, she serves as Vice-President of the Retired Judges Association of New Jersey.