

Chief Judge Anna Blackburne-Rigsby
Chief Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals

The Honorable Anna Blackburne-Rigsby became Chief Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals in March 2017. She has served on the Court of Appeals since 2006. Chief Judge Blackburne-Rigsby chairs the National Center for State Courts' Community Engagement in the State Courts Initiative. Chief Judge Blackburne-Rigsby served on the District of Columbia's Access to Justice Commission and chaired the District of Columbia Courts' Standing Committee on Fairness and Access. Chief Judge Blackburne-Rigsby is a former Chair and Moderator of the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts and the Past President of the National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ) for the 2013-2014 term. She is a former Chair of the Washington Bar Association's Judicial Council; serves on the Board of Managerial Trustees for the International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ) and served as Chair from 2010-2014. Through her work with these organizations, Chief Judge Blackburne-Rigsby has sought to promote the rule of law and access to justice. Chief Judge Blackburne-Rigsby has received awards for her legal, judicial and community service, including the National Association of Women Judges' "Justice Vaino Spencer Leadership Award." She was awarded the American Bar Association's Margaret Brent Award Honoring Women in the Legal Profession in August 2020 and the National Association of Women Judges "Lady Justice Award" in October 2020.

Prior positions include: Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia (2000-2006); Magistrate Judge on the Superior Court of the District of Columbia (1995-2000); Deputy Corporation Counsel in Charge of the Family Services Division for the District of Columbia Office of the Corporation Counsel (now District of Columbia Office of the Attorney General); Special Counsel to the Corporation Counsel; and Associate at the law firm of Hogan Lovells US LLP (formerly Hogan and Hartson). Chief Judge Blackburne-Rigsby earned her law degree from Howard University School of Law. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Duke University.

Chief Judge Blackburne-Rigsby is married to Judge Robert R. Rigsby, Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, former Corporation Counsel for the District of Columbia, and a retired Colonel and Military Judge of the United States Army Reserves. They are the proud parents of a son, Julian, a recent college graduate.