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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Criminal District Court Announces New Chief Judge



**JUDGE TRACEY FLEMINGS-DAVILLIER APPOINTED CHIEF JUDGE
FOR ORLEANS PARISH CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT**

NEW ORLEANS – Effective January 1, 2024, Judge Tracey Flemings-Davillier has been elected by her peers to serve as Chief Judge for Orleans Parish Criminal District Court, where she has presided as Judge in Section B since January 2013 and Deputy Chief Judge for the last two years. Judge Flemings-Davillier previously presided as Judge in Orleans Parish Juvenile Court from 2010 to 2012, where she also served as Deputy Chief Judge in 2011 and 2012.

Since taking the Criminal District Court bench, Judge Flemings-Davillier has remained committed to being an active member of the Judiciary by working on and off the bench. She serves as Judicial Liaison over Court Intervention Services, which oversees various programs, including Drug Court, Domestic Violence Monitoring Court, Mental Health Court and Pretrial Services. She serves on the Court’s Rules, Pretrial Services, Legislative, Magistrate Oversight and Finance Committees. As Chief Judge, in addition to managing a complex docket in an efficient and professional manner, Judge Flemings-Davillier will oversee Court administration, operations, programs and budgetary matters.

Judge Flemings-Davillier, appointed by Louisiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Bernette Johnson (retired), serves on the Louisiana Judicial College Governing Board, which develops and oversees educational and training programs for judges statewide. By appointment of Justice Johnson, Judge Flemings-Davillier also served on the Louisiana Body Camera Task Force, which worked with members of the Louisiana State Legislature to recommend statewide policies and procedures for body camera videos worn by law enforcement.

Judge Flemings-Davillier also serves as a member on the Federal Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee, comprised of various Federal, State and Local Criminal Justice Stakeholders, charged with evaluating and enhancing implementation of policies and procedures employed by the New Orleans Police Department (NOPD).

In addition, Judge Flemings-Davillier currently serves on an active working committee in partnership with the City of New Orleans Blueprint for Safety, a collaborative interagency initiative charged with implementing consistent policies and procedures amongst criminal justice agencies to address domestic violence. Judge Flemings-Davillier also serves as an active member of the City of New Orleans Criminal Justice Council and the Ethnic and Racial Disparities Working Group, both of which focus on fostering system-wide communication and evidence-based policymaking to promote an accountable, coordinated, equitable, efficient, and effective criminal and juvenile justice system.

During her judicial career, Judge Flemings-Davillier has served on various criminal justice reform and judicial/legal related panels and is a member of various Judicial/Bar and civic organizations, including The National Bar Association Judicial Council; The Louisiana Judicial Council/NBA; The Louisiana District Judges Association (Department of Public Safety & Corrections Committee and New Judges Committee); The Executive Board of the Fourth Circuit Judges Association, The Greater New Orleans Louis A. Martinet Legal Society, Inc. and The New Orleans Bar Association.

Judge Tracey Flemings-Davillier is a proud graduate of St. Mary's Academy High School, where she graduated with honors. Judge Flemings-Davillier graduated Cum Laude from Loyola University New Orleans with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology. Thereafter, she attended Loyola University New Orleans, College of Law on a full academic scholarship and received her Juris Doctorate.

Prior to her election to the Judiciary, Judge Flemings-Davillier's professional career spanned approximately 15 years as a practicing attorney at Phelps Dunbar, LLP from September 1994 to February 2010. As an attorney, she handled a wide variety of complex legal matters, such as insurance-related cases and products liability matters. As a senior attorney, she played an integral role in the supervision and training of associates. In addition, she served as a volunteer attorney with The New Orleans Pro Bono Project, wherein she represented children in foster care in the "Child in Need of Care" Program, ensuring that each child's educational, health, housing and family needs were met, in the best interest of the child.

Judge Flemings-Davillier has also served as a Federal Judicial Law Clerk to United States District Court Judge Ivan L.R. Lemelle of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana, providing legal research and writing on a myriad of civil and criminal cases.

Throughout her legal career, Judge Flemings-Davillier has always understood and appreciated the significance of supporting youth programs. She regularly participates in leadership/mentor programs geared toward working with high school students across the Metropolitan New Orleans area. She participates in the *Suit Up for the Future High School Summer Legal Institute and Intern Program* sponsored by the Louisiana State Bar Association, the American Bar Association's Law Day program and various similar programs. In addition, she has participated in career days across the City, including at her Alma Mater, St Mary's Academy.

Judge Flemings-Davillier has continued her own path of personal and professional growth. Most recently, she completed Loyola University's Women's Leadership Academy (WLA), Cohort 3. The WLA Cohort consists of a diverse group of dynamic women in senior and executive level positions in various professions, all of whom are focusing on continued personal and professional growth as well as ways to enhance our community.

In recognition for her service to the community, she has been recognized as a City Business Women of the Year, and has been awarded the St. Mary's Academy Legacy Award; City Business Leadership in Law Award; Crystal Gavel Award (Louisiana State Bar Association); Gillis Long Poverty Law Center Award (Loyola University School of Law); Woman of the Year award by the Louisiana Federation of Business and Professional Women; Jack and Jill of America, Incorporated, New Orleans Chapter Mother of the Year Award; Distinguished Service as a Pro Bono Volunteer Award (2003, 2004 and 2006); and Young Leadership Award (Greater New Orleans Louis A. Martinet Legal Society, Inc.).

In her role as Chief Judge, she plans to continue working with the Criminal District Court Team to enhance the Court's technological capabilities for efficient case processing and tracking; Court management and operations; and Court Intervention Services (CIS) programs to offer effective behavioral health, mental health and substance disorder treatment as well as extensive monitoring to reduce recidivism. Judge Flemings-Davillier also commits to continuing to work collaboratively with all Criminal Justice Stakeholders to develop, improve and implement system-wide policies, procedures, practices and programs that enhance the quality of life for all citizens.

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