



On August 9, 2010, Pamela Scott Washington was appointed to the Anchorage District Court by former Alaska Governor Sean Parnell. Judge Washington is the first African-American woman to join Alaska's judiciary and at the time only the second African-American judge in the state's history. As a District Court Judge, she manages high-volume criminal and civil cases and serves as the presiding judge of Anchorage's Coordinated Resource Project also known as the Mental Health Court. She also presides over the general jurisdiction calendar for the city of Sand Point. Judge

Washington co-chairs the Alaska Supreme Court's Fairness, Diversity & Equality Commission and serves on the Cultural Competency Committee.

Judge Washington is an active member of her community. She currently serves as a teacher and legal advisor in Anchorage Youth Court. She is also involved as a judge, mentor, and mock trial coach for the Court's Color of Justice, the Anchorage School District's We the People program, and the University of Alaska's Model United Nations program. She is a member of the Links, Incorporated and serves as the Services to Youth Chair and program advisor to the local National Association of Black Engineers Junior chapter.

Judge Washington is a 10-year member of the National Association of Women Judges and currently serves as Vice President of Districts and member of the International Outreach Committee. She is the Anchorage Chair of NAWJ's Color of Justice and Mentor Jet programs. Judge Washington serves in the US Chapter of the Pan American Commission of Judges on Social Justice, and the National Center for State Court Blueprint for Racial Justice Work Group.

Prior to her appointment to the bench, Judge Washington practiced law for 18 years. She served as prosecutor for the Municipality of Anchorage in the Domestic Violence Unit. Early on in her legal career, Judge Washington worked for the Alaska Public Defender Agency and clerked for the Honorable Superior Court Judge John Reese (Ret.). She then went on to work in private practice for thirteen years, including ten years as a solo practitioner in Anchorage practicing in family law, employment law, criminal defense and personal injury.

As the first African-American woman appointed to the judiciary in Alaska, Judge Washington has been a catalyst for increasing diversity on the bench, requiring implicit bias training for judicial officers, and ensuring the fair and impartial administration of justice for all people, regardless of race. She is the recipient of many awards and recognitions including the Alaska Supreme Court's Community Service Award, North to the Future Business and Professional Woman in History Award, and the Congressional Coalition Angels in Adoption Honoree for her advocacy in Alaska's foster care system.

Judge Washington is a native of New Orleans, Louisiana but has called Alaska home since 1975. She received a BS in Telecommunication at Northern Arizona University in 1984 and a Juris Doctor from Arizona State University in 1991. She is married to Dr. Stephen Washington, a mental health clinician, and they have three adult children, five grandsons, and finally a joyful granddaughter born in the middle of the pandemic.