

Lifetime Achievement Award

The Honorable Angela Edwards Roberts, the first elected African American female judge in the Commonwealth of Virginia, has served with distinction as a Judge of the Richmond City Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court, since March 1990. She served two terms as the court's Chief Judge.

A native of Caroline County, Virginia, she earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science from Virginia Tech in 1975, with honors. After working for two years as a Budget Analyst with the Virginia Department of Planning and Budget, she attended law school at Emory University School of Law in Atlanta, Georgia and earned a Juris Doctorate Degree in 1980.

Judge Roberts began her legal career in the private practice of law in Atlanta. Upon returning to Virginia, she continued in private practice in association with the late Leonard W. Lambert. Prior to her elevation to the bench, Judge Roberts' public service included employment as the first African American female Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney for the City of Richmond and the first African American Assistant Bar Counsel for the Virginia State Bar. She also served as an adjunct faculty member teaching Communications Law at Virginia Union University.

Judge Roberts is an active member of numerous professional organizations, including the National Council of Juvenile & Family Court Judges, the National and Virginia Associations of Women Judges, the National Bar Association, the Old Dominion Bar Association, the Virginia Bar Association and the Richmond Bar Association.

She has been appointed to numerous committees and boards by several Governors and every Chief Justice. They include the Executive Committee of the Judicial Conference of Virginia for District Court Judges; the Committee on District Courts Advisory Committee; the Advisory Committee on Domestic Violence; the Education Committee of the Judicial Conference of Virginia; the Indigent Defense Commission Training Seminar Committee; the State Advisory Committee to Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA); the Judicial Liaison Committee to the Department of Juvenile Justice; the Board of Governors for the Criminal and Family Law Sections of the Virginia State Bar; and the Domestic Relations Section of the Virginia Bar Association

Judge Roberts has also served as faculty/presenter for "Managing Juvenile Cases" at the National Judicial College; the Carrico Professionalism Course of the Virginia State Bar; the Bar Leader's Institute; Bench-Bar Conferences for the Richmond Bar Association and the John Marshall Foundation's "Justice in the Classrooms" Program. She was also featured in the "Virginia is for Good Lawyers" video done by the Virginia State Bar.

Judge Roberts has received awards and recognition for her passionate work both on and off the bench. Professional awards include: the Harold Marsh, Sr. Community Service Award from the Old Dominion Bar Association (2004); the Virginia Lawyer's Weekly Influential Women in Virginia Award (2011); the YWCA Outstanding Woman in Law Award (2005); the Adoption Day Pioneer Award from the Virginia Women Attorneys Association (2004); and the Outstanding Law Week Award for Oliver Hill Day from the American Bar Association (2004).

Judge Roberts' extensive community service has included her active membership in Fifth Street Baptist Church; the Richmond Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta; The Commonwealth Chapter of the Links; the Advisory Board of the Continental Societies; the Midlothian Chapter of Jack and Jill of America; Troop Committee Chair of Boy Scout Troop 476; YMCA of Greater Richmond Association board; and guest speaker and volunteer for countless school, church and civic events.

Some of her community awards include: the 'Stand Out Award' from the Richmond Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta (2015); the 'Distinguished Mother Award' from the Midlothian Chapter of Jack and Jill (2002); the 'SERWA Award' for Illustrious Achievement from the National Coalition of 100 Black Women (1991); and the Virginia Congress of Parents and Teachers' "Distinguished Service Award" (2001).

In her spare time, Judge Roberts enjoys spending quality time with her family. Her devoted and loving husband of 31 years, Roscoe C. Roberts, is Senior Assistant Attorney General and General Counsel to the University of Virginia. Her oldest son, Anthony, is a Senior Associate with Bain Capital in Atlanta, Georgia. His wife, April, is Assistant Admissions Director at Spelman College. Her other son, Justin, is a Navy Lieutenant and aviator stationed in Jacksonville, Florida and his wife, Jazmind, is an Air Force Lieutenant and aviator stationed in Oklahoma.