



Laura D. Blackburne

New York State Supreme Court
Justice, Retired

Professional Profile

Devoted to local, National and international public service for over 45 years: sensitive and solid judicial skills; dynamic law professor; creative conflict manager and trainer; skilled mediator; vibrant public speaker; energetic and passionate civil and human rights advocate.

Judicial Experience

New York State Supreme Court Justice. Elected 1999; Retired 2006. Court of general jurisdiction. Presided over felony criminal matters including assault, robbery, narcotics, arson, rape

and murder; as well as multimillion dollar civil matters involving contract disputes, medical malpractice, **product liability, construction and** motor vehicle accidents; and matrimonial matters.

Presided over Queens Treatment Court which provided an alternative to incarceration for first felony drug offenders who successfully completed drug rehabilitation, community service, employment training, and got a job.

New York City, Civil Court Judge. Elected 1995; served until 1999. Court of limited jurisdiction. Presided over arraignments of felony and misdemeanor crimes, conducted misdemeanor criminal trials and hearings; and resolved other civil and minor criminal matters.

Government Service

Chair, New York City Housing Authority, 1990-92, the largest low income public housing program in the United States with responsibility for 600,000 residents and 16,000

employees including a 2400 person police force; instituted the first bicycle police patrol in New York City.

Member of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority and Chair of the Triboro Bridge and Tunnel Authority, 1985-92.

Education

St. John's University School of Law, Jurist Doctor, 1979

The Ohio State University, Bachelor of Science, 1959

New York University, Graduate School of Education, coursework 1960

Cornell University School of Labor Relations, coursework, 1980

International Missions

Brazil, 1993, 10 day study of organized labor and child exploitation; South Africa, 1991, 2 week study, post Apartheid housing and criminal justice; Former Soviet Union, 1991; Led a 15 person group on a 18 day assessment of housing and courts; Great Britain 1989; lectured on mediation and conflict resolution in the courts; Peoples Republic of China, Led a 21 day exchange with Judges and lawyers on U.S. Mediation in courts; and Chinese Village Mediation; Chinese courts, and labor arbitration. Switzerland, 1987; studied transportation system. Kenya, 1985; served as a mediator for UN International Conference on Women; Great Britain and Canada; 1984, Lectures on Mediation and Conflict Resolution. 1983, Application of conflict resolution techniques in minor disputes in Johannesburg and Cape Town segregated townships.

Service to the Bench and Bar

Pro bono Counsel, New York State NAACP, 1979-1990. Committee on Character and Fitness for Bar Admissions 2nd Department 1984-92; Disciplinary Committee of the Bar, 1st Department, 1982-85; Founder and Coordinator Community Law Day, York College 1996-2005; Founder, Summer Youth Court Employment Program, 1998-2005; National Association of Women Judges, Queens, New York, Color of Justice Coordinator, 2003-2005.

Honors

Honorary Doctor of Laws Degrees, St. John's University, 1986; and Niagara University, 1991, the first woman to receive the NAACP William Ming Civil Rights Advocacy Award: and is the recipient of many, many other awards on recognition of her legal and community achievements.