



Barbara A. Bolling

Attorney

Barbara Bolling, an alumnus of Gary's West Side High School, returned to her roots in 1991 to start her own law practice. For two years she was a co-owner of *Soft-n-Silky*, a retail store that was located in the Village Mall. She was the eldest of two daughters born to the late Mary Bolling and Samuel Bolling. Her sister Carolyn passed in 1995. Since that time, Barbara has assumed the raising of her cousin, Cheron Reed, sharing this joy with her mother until her passing in 2005.

Attorney Bolling earned her bachelor's degree from General Motors Institute (now known as Kettering University) in Flint, Michigan. She obtained her law degree from Valparaiso University School of Law. She has a strong commitment to faith, family and community. Barbara believes that it is everyone's obligation and her mission to make this world a better place. This is most effectively achieved through communication. "Your ability to effectively communicate is severely compromised, if you are not talking and listening to the other party. Everyone is entitled to his or her opinion. If you are sincere about making a contribution to the community, then you have to listen to the community."

As a practicing attorney, Ms. Bolling has a general practice with an emphasis on plaintiff's issues. She tries to narrow her practice to family law matters. She is an adjunct professor at Valparaiso University School of Law. She served as a part-time staff attorney with the Lake County Office of Family and Children, where she regularly protected the interests of abused and neglected children for 15 years.

In addition to family commitments, her passion is working in and with community-based organizations. Ms. Bolling is the President of the Indiana State Conference of NAACP. She was elected in October of 2003, succeeding Rev. Franklin Breckenridge who had served in that position for 25 years. On the national level, she is a trustee of the Special Contribution Funds Board of the NAACP. Locally, she is the former president of the Gary Branch where she now serves as a member of the Executive Committee.

Because of her extensive work with NAACP and other not-for-profit organizations, she is often called upon for speaking engagements and diversity training workshops and seminars.

She is a member of First Baptist Church, a member of the Sunday school, a member of the Board of Directors of Images of Hope (a second chance ministry), on the Board of MOTTEP (Minority Organ Tissue Transplant Education Program), the treasurer of the James C. Kimbrough Law Association, and a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Attorney Bolling has been blessed with many honors and awards. Having been taught at an early age, "To whom much is given, much is required", Attorney Bolling uses all of her God-given gifts and talents to better her community and those whose are affected.

