

## CHIEF JUDGE WILLIAMS ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA – Chief Judge Felicia Toney Williams has announced her retirement from the Second Circuit Court of Appeal, State of Louisiana. Her retirement, effective September 30, 2020, marks the end of a 30-year judicial career. “There is never a good time to leave,” Chief Judge Williams stated. “However, I feel comfort in knowing that I have faithfully served the judiciary for over 30 years with dignity, integrity and to the best of my ability. Now, I will take time to enjoy the fruits of my labor.”

Chief Judge Williams is a 1977 graduate of Southern University (BA, Political Science, magna cum laude) and a 1980 graduate of Southern University School of Law (Juris Doctor, cum laude), where she was editor-in-chief of the *Law Review*. After graduation, she worked as an attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice, Central Louisiana Legal Services, staff attorney for the Louisiana Supreme Court, assistant D.A. for the Sixth JDC District Attorney (East Carroll, Madison and Tensas parishes), and in private practice at Williams & Williams APLC. She was elected judge of the Sixth JDC in 1990, first elected to the Second Circuit in 1992, won unopposed reelection in 2002 and 2012, and became chief judge in October 2018. She was the first female and first African American female elected to the Second Circuit, and the first African American to serve as its chief. She also sat as an Associate Justice, *pro tempore*, on the Louisiana Supreme Court in 1994.

Chief Judge Williams’s professional, civic and business affiliations are numerous, including the Louisiana State, Shreveport, New Orleans, American and National Bar Associations, the Louisiana and National Judicial Councils, the American and Louisiana Bar Foundations, the Louis A. Martinet Legal Society, Fred Fudickar Jr. American Inn of Court, Order of Eastern Star and New Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church, in Tallulah, Louisiana. She also received the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Award, in Shreveport, in 2009, the Harry Blake Award, in 2019, and is recognized in *Who’s Who in American Law*. She is especially proud of her initiative to coach young people in the delta parishes of East Carroll, Madison and Tensas.

Chief Justice Bernette Johnson, of the Louisiana Supreme Court, praised Chief Judge Williams for her “commitment to justice evidenced by her impeccable 30-year career in the judiciary.” Associate Justice Scott Crichton joined the tribute. “It has been my experience to witness her dedication to the rule of law. She is to be commended for her years of service.”

Chief Judge Williams was born in 1956 in Newellton, Louisiana, to the late A.C. Toney and the late Ernestine Edison Toney, and graduated from McCall Senior High School, Tallulah, in 1974, with honors. She is married to attorney Moses Junior Williams, and is the mother of Rhonda W. Jackson, Myra Meshell Williams and Justin Junior Williams, and the proud grandmother of Christian and Camryn Jackson.

Upon Chief Judge Williams’s retirement, Judge D. Milton Moore III, of Monroe, will assume the seat of Chief Judge. Judge Moore has been on the court since January 2003. The Louisiana Supreme Court has appointed retired Justice Joe Bleich as judge *pro tempore* to fill Chief Judge Williams’s seat through May 2021, or until the vacancy is filled.

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## MOORE SWORN IN AS NEW SECOND CIRCUIT CHIEF JUDGE

Judge D. Milton Moore III took the oath of office as Chief Judge of the Louisiana Second Circuit Court of Appeal on October 7, 2020. Owing to Coronavirus restrictions, the event was held privately in the court's library on Fannin Street, with about eight people present. The oath was administered by Hon. Jeanette Garrett, Chief Judge Moore's colleague on the court and long-time friend.

"It is an honor to serve with this dream team of judges and attorneys," Judge Moore said, in brief comments. "You just couldn't ask for better people."

Judge Moore is a native of Monroe, a graduate of Neville High School in 1969, LSU (B.A., history, 1973) and LSU Law Center (J.D., May 1976). After graduation, he returned to Monroe and practiced law with Dimos, Brown & Erskine, spent some time in solo practice based in a historical Victorian house on Jackson Street, and later joined the firm of Brown, Wicker & Amman. In 1980, he was elected to the first Monroe City Council under its newly reorganized form of government, and served two terms.

In 1988, he won a seat on the Fourth JDC and was later reelected without opposition. In 2000, he served two months as a judge pro tem on the First Circuit Court of Appeal in Baton Rouge. He was elected to the Second Circuit, First District, Section 2B, in October 2002, without opposition. He won reelection without opposition in 2012. He was elevated to chief by the retirement of Judge Felicia Toney Williams, in September 2020. His term as chief officially began October 1.

Judge Moore is married to the former Janet Little, of New Orleans, who recently retired from teaching at Jesus the Good Shepherd Catholic School in Monroe. They have two sons, Will, an attorney with Katten Muchin & Rosenman, in Dallas, and Doug, who works for the La. Department of Education. They also have two grandsons, living in Dallas.

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**2020 Press Releases**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CHIEF JUDGE FELICIA TONEY WILLIAMS ANNOUNCES HER RETIREMENT;  
RETIRED JUSTICE EDWARD JOSEPH BLEICH TO SERVE AS JUDGE PRO TEMPORE**

**New Orleans, LA** - Today, the Louisiana Supreme Court announced that **it has appointed** ([/Press Room/Press Releases/2020/2020-33 BleichOrder.pdf](/Press_Room/Press_Releases/2020/2020-33_BleichOrder.pdf)) retired Justice Edward Joseph Bleich as judge *pro tempore* of the Court of Appeal, Second Circuit, to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Second Circuit Court of Appeal Chief Judge Felicia Toney Williams, effective October 1, 2020. Retired Justice Bleich, who was unanimously approved by the Supreme Court, will serve October 1, 2020 through May 31, 2021 or until the vacancy is filled, whichever occurs sooner.

Chief Judge Felicia Toney Williams was the first African American to serve as Chief Judge of the Court of Appeal, Second Circuit. She earned her bachelor’s degree from Southern University of Baton Rouge in 1977 and her juris doctor from Southern University School of Law in Baton Rouge, LA in 1980. Following graduation, she served as an attorney with the United States Department of Justice, after which she worked as an attorney at Central Louisiana Legal Services and a central staff law clerk at the Louisiana Supreme Court. She later worked as Madison Parish Assistant District Attorney, and as a Partner at Williams and Williams, APLC. She was elected as 6th Judicial District Court Judge, Division B in 1991 where she served until her election to the Court of Appeal, Second Circuit bench in 1993. In 1994 she served as Louisiana Supreme Court Associate Justice *pro tempore*.

“Chief Judge Williams exemplifies commitment to justice evidenced by her impeccable 30 year career in the judiciary,” said Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson, “her service on the bench has provided a beacon for her successors and she will certainly be missed.” Associate Justice Scott J. Crichton commented, “It has been my experience to witness her dedication to the rule of law. She is to be commended for her years of service. We additionally express our thanks to retired Justice Bleich for his willingness to serve.”

Retired Justice Edward Joseph Bleich was elected to the 3rd Judicial District Court, Division B in 1985 and reelected without opposition in 1991. Pursuant to order of the Louisiana Supreme Court, retired Justice Bleich has previously served on the Second Circuit Court of Appeal in a *pro tempore* capacity on three previous occasions.

**For more information visit [lasc.org](http://lasc.org) (/) or contact Louisiana Supreme Court Public Information Specialist/Coordinator Trina S. Vincent at [tvincen@lasc.org](mailto:tvincen@lasc.org) (<mailto:tvincen@lasc.org>) or (504) 310-2590.**