

CHIEF JUDGE ANNA BLACKBURNE-RIGSBY

The Honorable Anna Blackburne-Rigsby was appointed Chief Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals in March 2017. Chief Judge Blackburne-Rigsby chairs the Joint Committee on Judicial Administration for the District of Columbia court system. Prior to being designated Chief Judge, she was nominated by President George W. Bush in August 2006 to serve as an Associate Judge of the D.C. Court of Appeals. Before that, Chief Judge Blackburne-Rigsby was nominated by President Bill Clinton to serve as an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia from 2000-2006, and she previously served as a Magistrate Judge on the Superior Court of the District of Columbia from 1995-2000.

As an Associate Judge of the D.C. Court of Appeals, Chief Judge Blackburne-Rigsby chaired the District of Columbia Courts' Standing Committee on Fairness and Access, and served on the District of Columbia's Access to Justice Commission. She serves on the Board of Directors for the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts and also served as the Consortium's President and Moderator. She is a Past President of the National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ).

Chief Judge Blackburne-Rigsby graduated from Duke University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and received the Duke University Presidential Leadership Award. Following graduation from Duke University, she was selected to be one of twelve Public Affairs Fellows of the Coro Foundation in San Francisco, California. She earned her law degree from Howard University School of Law, graduating in the top five percent of her class. While in law school, she served as the Lead Articles Editor of the Howard Law Journal and served as the Co-Captain for the Charles Hamilton Houston Moot Court Team.

Following law school, Chief Judge Blackburne-Rigsby was an associate at the law firm of Hogan Lovells US LLP (formerly Hogan and Hartson) in Washington, D.C., where she litigated commercial, real estate, employment discrimination, and education matters before state and federal courts and administrative agencies.

Chief Judge Blackburne-Rigsby later joined the District of Columbia Office of the Corporation Counsel (now District of Columbia Office of the Attorney General), where she served as Special Counsel to the Corporation Counsel, working as part of the senior management team. She then served as Deputy Corporation Counsel in charge of the Family Services Division, where she managed the Division's 65

attorneys and support staff, responsible for handling child abuse and neglect, child support enforcement, and domestic violence cases.

Chief Judge Blackburne-Rigsby has taught Trial Advocacy at Harvard Law School and teaches Professional Responsibility as an Adjunct Professor at the David A. Clarke School of Law at the University of the District of Columbia. She has also taught Continuing Legal Education courses for the D.C. Bar. Chief Judge Blackburne-Rigsby has trained judges from other countries in conjunction with the National Center for State Courts and the United States Department of State.

Chief Judge Blackburne-Rigsby has held offices in several judicial organizations. She is a former Chair of the Washington Bar Association's Judicial Council – an affiliate of the National Bar Association. In addition to her work with the NAWJ, she serves on the Board of Managerial Trustees for the International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ) and served as Chair from 2010-2014.

In March of 2006, Chief Judge Blackburne-Rigsby represented the IAWJ at a Judicial Conference in Turin, Italy, where she delivered a speech on Racial Equality in the Workplace at the Lavoro dei Migranti e Discriminazione Convegno. In 2003, she traveled to Johannesburg, South Africa to participate in a conference of the African Judicial Network. In 2014, she led the delegation of women judges from the United States at the Biennial Conference of the IAWJ. In 2017, Chief Judge Blackburne-Rigsby presented a paper at the Summit of Women Judges and Prosecutors on Human Trafficking and Organized Crime hosted by the Pontifical Academies of Sciences and Social Sciences at the Vatican. Through her work with these organizations, she has sought to promote the rule of law and equal access to justice.

Chief Judge Blackburne-Rigsby has volunteered on the D.C. Rape Crisis Board; she is the former President of the Washington, D.C. Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc.; a member of the Washington, D.C. Chapter of the Links, Inc.; and a lifelong member of the NAACP. She served as a Sunday school teacher at Shiloh Baptist Church and coached the girls' basketball team of St. Gabriel's Church.

Chief Judge Blackburne-Rigsby has received awards for her legal, judicial and community service, including the Business and Professional Women's League's "Sojourner Truth Award", the Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia's "2014 Star of the Bar Award", the National Bar Association's "Heman Sweatt Champion of Justice" Award, the Greater Washington Area Women Lawyers Division's (GWAC) "Charlotte E. Ray Award," and the NAWJ's "Justice Vaino Spencer Leadership Award." In 2017 she was inducted into the Washington Bar

Association Hall of Fame. In October 2017 and 2019, she was honored as one of Washington's Most Powerful Women by the *Washingtonian* magazine. Chief Judge Blackburne-Rigsby was named "2018 Woman Lawyer of the Year" by the Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia.

Chief Judge Blackburne-Rigsby was born in the District of Columbia. She is married to Judge Robert Rigsby, Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia and former Corporation Counsel for the District of Columbia. They are the proud parents of one son, a recent college graduate.