

HON. WENDELL P. GARDNER, JR.

President George H.W. Bush appointed Judge Wendell P. Gardner, Jr. to the bench of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia in 1991.

Judge Gardner, a native Washingtonian, attended public schools in the District of Columbia until his graduation from McKinley High School in 1964. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration in 1969 from Howard University and a Master of Business Administration degree in 1971 from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. Prior to attending law school, he worked in St. Louis, teaching Business Administration at Florissant Valley Community College and later worked in St. Louis as a business consultant for the Interracial Council for Business Opportunity. In 1976, Judge Gardner received his law degree from The Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law. While a student attorney, he represented low-income clients through the law school's legal clinic.

Upon graduating from law school, Judge Gardner began his legal career as an attorney and registered lobbyist for Sears, Roebuck & Co. in Washington, D.C. In 1981, Judge Gardner joined Emmet G. Sullivan as a partner in the general practice law firm of Houston, Sullivan & Gardner, until Judge Sullivan's appointment to the Superior Court bench in November 1984. From January 1988 until his appointment to the Superior Court bench, Judge Gardner was a partner with Johnny M. Howard in the successor firm of Houston & Gardner. Judge Gardner was the tenth lawyer from the Houston firm to become a member of the Judiciary. The nine judges who preceded him were: Annice M. Wagner, former Chief Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals; Theodore R. Newman, Jr., former Chief Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals; Emmet G. Sullivan, United States District Judge for the District of Columbia; the late William H. Hastie, former Chief Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit; the late William B. Bryant, former Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia; the late Juanita Kidd Stout, former Chief Judge of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania; the late Joseph C. Waddy, United States District Judge for the District of Columbia; the late William C. Gardner and the late Margaret Haywood Associate Judges of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

During his years in private practice, Judge Gardner served the bench, bar and the community in a number of professional capacities such as the Secretary of the Washington Bar Association, as a board member of the Visitor's Service Center, as a member of the Superior Court Probate and Fiduciary Rules Committee, and as Secretary of the Bar Association of the District of Columbia. He also was the Chair of the Hearing Committee Number Five (5) of the Board on Professional Responsibility of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, which hears attorney disciplinary cases. He has publicly addressed various church groups, the Kiwanis Club, and the American Association of Retired Persons on such topics as domestic relations, landlord and tenant law, and wills and estates.

During his tenure on the Superior Court, he has served in every division of the Court including Criminal, Civil, Family, Tax, Probate and in the Domestic Violence Unit. In August 1994, he became the Presiding Judge of the Probate and Tax Divisions and during the same year testified before the City Council on Probate Reform Legislation. He has tried cases of virtually every variety except for Civil I and Domestic I cases. He currently serves as a member of the following Court committees: The Committee on the Selection and Tenure of Magistrate Judges, Liaison Committee to the Judicial Disabilities and Tenure Commission, the Criminal Justice Act Panel Implementation Committee. Court committees previously chaired by him are: the Criminal Justice Act Disciplinary Committee, the Committee on Probate and Fiduciary Rules, and the Advisory Committee on Tax Rules. Judge Gardner is a Charter Member of the Judicial Council of the Washington Bar Association. He has received several awards and honors, with the most recent being selected to the Washington Bar Association Hall of Fame in June 2007.