



Plenary Session

Trailblazer: Judge Burnita Shelton Matthews, First Woman to Serve as Federal Trial Judge

Chief Judge Beryl A. Howell of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia will discuss the life and career of Judge Burnita Shelton Matthews, whose appointment in 1949 as a federal trial judge in D.C. made history. Prior to joining the bench, Matthews was active in the women's suffrage movement, and she dedicated her early legal career to fighting for women's equality. Judge Matthews served on the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia for 27 years, earning a reputation for her extraordinary work ethic and her support and mentoring of women lawyers.

Speaker:

Hon. Beryl A. Howell

Chief Judge

United States District Court for the District of Columbia