

The Federal Court Family Celebrates Black History Month with

Living History: The Black Women Judges of the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals

Friday, February 21, 2025, at 2:00 PM

The United States District Court for the Southern District of Indiana is pleased to announce its 26th annual Black History Month event. This year's hour-long program, *Living History: The Black Women Judges of the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals*, will be held in **courtroom 202 at the Birch Bayh Federal Building and United States Courthouse on Friday, February 21, 2025, at 2:00 PM**. A virtual option is available for those who cannot attend in person. One hour of Continuing Legal Education credit has been approved.

The program will feature a candid conversation with the Honorable Ann Claire Williams (Retired), the Honorable Candace Jackson-Akiwumi, and the Honorable Doris L. Pryor.

President Ronald Reagan nominated the Honorable Ann Claire Williams in 1985 to the U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois, making her the first woman of color to serve on a district court in the three-state Seventh Circuit. In 1999, President William Clinton's nomination made her the first judge of color to sit on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit and the third Black woman to serve on any federal circuit court. Judge Williams assumed senior status in 2017 and retired from the Court in 2018. She is now Of Counsel at Jones Day, where she leads the firm's pro bono efforts to advance the rule of law in Africa.

Judge Candace Jackson-Akiwumi in 2021 became the second Black woman and first former public defender to serve on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, following her nomination by President Joe Biden. A 2005 graduate of Yale Law School, Judge Jackson-Akiwumi served two federal law clerkships from 2005-2007, followed by time in private practice. From 2010-2020, she worked as a staff attorney for the Federal Defender Program for the Northern District of Illinois. She briefly returned to private practice before assuming her position on the bench.

Judge Doris L. Pryor began her career on the bench in 2018 as a magistrate judge for the Southern District of Indiana. President Biden elevated her to the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals in 2022, making her the third Black woman to hold that position and first from Indiana. Judge Pryor worked as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Southern District of Indiana from 2006 to 2018, including four years as National Security Chief from 2014-2018. She also served two federal law clerkships from 2003-2005 and was Deputy Public Defender for the Arkansas Public Defender's Commission from 2005-2006.

As in past years, the 2025 program is co-sponsored by the United States District Court, United States Bankruptcy Court, United States Probation Office, United States Attorney's Office, Federal Community Defenders, and the United States Marshals Service for the Southern District of Indiana.

The event is free and open to the public, but pre-registration is required. Please register at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/BHM-2025> to reserve a space and indicate whether you will attend in person or virtually. Those attending virtually will receive the link upon registration, and again the day before the program with instructions on how to join the program via Zoom.