

**THE HONORABLE RAFAEL DIAZ
ASSOCIATE JUDGE
SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

Judge Rafael Diaz was appointed to the Superior Court of the District of Columbia in 1994 by President William Jefferson Clinton.

Judge Diaz was born in San Juan, Puerto Rico in 1944 and attended Cardinal Hayes High School in the Bronx, New York. At age eighteen, he joined the United States Navy. He served in Vietnam as a front line medic with the U.S. Marines. He attended the City College of New York and graduated with a degree in Psychology. After his graduation, he served as a court clerk for Judge Edward R. Neaheer of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York. In 1981, he graduated from the Antioch School of Law in Washington, D.C.

After law school, Judge Diaz worked with the Office of People's Counsel. After leaving the Office of People's Counsel, he worked as an associate in the firm of Hayes and White and later in his own private practice. In 1984, he joined the Office of Corporation Counsel and was assigned to the Criminal Division of that office. In 1986, he was transferred to the Special Litigation Office of the Civil Division, where he served as a senior trial attorney until his appointment to the bench. In the Office of Corporation Counsel, Judge Diaz litigated civil jury cases typically comprised of complex issues in such areas as civil rights, constitutional rights, torts, wrongful death cases, Special Education and Handicapped Individuals, Court Appointment of Receiverships, Monitors, and cases in special areas of banking.

Judge Diaz has been an active member of the Hispanic Bar Association (HBA) for more than ten years, and was elected President in 1986. During his term, he initiated an Annual Law Day, which benefited District of Columbia residents by having attorneys available to offer free legal advice on a wide range of issues. He participated in the initial efforts to enact legislation to provide interpreter services in the D.C. Superior Court. Judge Diaz is a strong supporter of the HBA's mentor program, and he contributes much of his private time to issues of importance to the Hispanic community.

Judge Diaz has also served as a Commissioner on the D.C. Human Rights Commission; a Barrister in the American Inns of Court, Charles Fahy Chapter; and as a member of the Antioch Legal Services Board.