

**THE HONORABLE TARA J. FENTRESS
MAGISTRATE JUDGE
SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

Tara J. Fentress was sworn in as a magistrate judge on October 21, 2002 by Chief Judge Rufus G. King III.

Magistrate Judge Fentress was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan. Judge Fentress graduated from Wesleyan University in 1986, receiving her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology. In 1985, she completed an abroad studies program at the City of London Polytechnic. In 1989, Judge Fentress received her Juris Doctorate from Georgetown University Law Center. Upon graduation, Judge Fentress worked as an associate attorney for a small, personal injury firm.

In 1992, Judge Fentress established a private law practice, primarily focused on child welfare and personal injury. She provided court-appointed representation in the areas of child abuse, neglect, custody and adoption, almost exclusively representing children. In 2001, Judge Fentress shifted her neglect practice from individual representation to child welfare consultation. Since 1995, Judge Fentress has served as an appointee to the D.C. Mayor's Advisory Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect. She is a former president of the Greater Washington Area Chapter, Women Lawyers Division of the National Bar Association ("GWAC"). From 1998 to 2002, Judge Fentress served as an appointee to the D.C. Bar, Rules of Professional Conduct Review Committee.

Judge Fentress currently serves as a Magistrate Judge in the Family Court. She remains an active member of GWAC, the Mayor's Advisory Committee, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, and serves on the Superior Court's Domestic Violence Committee.

Judge Fentress sings with gospel music recording artist, "Richard Smallwood & Vision". She is a real estate investor, children's motivational speaker and the editor of the children's book series, "Got It Goin' On", which was featured on the Oprah Winfrey Show. In her spare time, Judge Fentress enjoys traveling, exercising and playing golf.