THE HONORABLE CHERYL M. LONG
ASSOCIATE JUDGE
SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Judge Cheryl M. Long was appointed to the Superior Court of the District of Columbia in 1988 by President Ronald Reagan. During her judicial career, Judge Long has served in every division of the Superior Court and has sat by designation on several panels of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals. In 2003, the District of Columbia Commission on Judicial Disabilities and Tenure granted Judge Long a second, 15-year term, finding her to be well qualified for continued service.

Most of Judge Long's judicial experience has been in assignments beyond the Criminal Division, and she has published opinions on a broad range of issues. She served for several years in the dual roles of Presiding Judge of the Probate Division and Presiding Judge of the Tax Division. In one of her several tours of duty in the Civil Division, Judge Long presided over one of the Civil I calendars, involving complex commercial matters, asbestos cases, and professional malpractice disputes.

Within the Court, Judge Long contributes to the development of rules and policies in diverse areas. She is currently the Chair of the Court Interpreters Committee. She also serves as a member of the Probate Rules Advisory Committee, and participates in several special subcommittees handling issues of the Family Court.

Judge Long grew up in the District of Columbia and attended the public schools: Bunker Hill Elementary School and Taft and Backus Junior High Schools. She graduated from Calvin Coolidge High School in 1967. Judge Long received her undergraduate and law degrees from Georgetown University and was the first black woman to graduate from the prestigious Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown.

Upon her graduation from law school in 1974, Judge Long was a clerk for the Honorable Spottswood W. Robinson, III of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. She was hired in 1975 as an Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Columbia, serving as a prosecutor in the federal and local courts until late 1979. From that time until August 1982, she was an attorney in the Civil Division of the United States Attorney's Office, handling defense litigation on behalf of many federal agencies. Her civil trial experience included cases involving torts, contracts, injunctive relief, discrimination, and administrative law.

Judge Long gained further experience in more complex litigation while employed from 1982 to 1985 as a staff attorney in the Division of Land and Natural Resources at the Department of Justice. She prosecuted white-collar criminal cases based upon violations of various federal environmental statutes.   She also handled civil enforcement cases under the Superfund law, Clean Water Act, and related regulatory laws.

In the spring of 1985, the Board of Trustees of the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia appointed Judge Long to be the agency's new Director. Upon her

appointment, Judge Long became the first black woman to head a public defender office in any major American city. As the Director, Judge Long supervised the equivalent of a law firm of 61 attorneys and 62 support staff, serving thousands of clients each year.

Throughout her career, Judge Long has been active in many bar associations, such as the Washington Bar Association, the District of Columbia Bar, and the Women's Bar Association. She has also served as a member of the Committee on Grievances of the United States District Court. Over the years, Judge Long has been honored for her accomplishments by other citizens in the District of Columbia. For example, she has been recognized also for her work with the Coalition for the Homeless. The Georgetown University Alumni Club of Metropolitan Washington presented her with an award in 1986 as its outstanding graduate for that year. Judge Long is now a member emeritus of the Georgetown University Law Center's Board of Visitors, having been selected as one of its original members.