

Judge, Orleans Parish Juvenile Court, Section "A"

The Honorable Ernestine S. Gray has been serving as Judge of Orleans Parish Juvenile Court since November 6, 1984.

Educational Background

- Louisiana State University School of Law, Juris Doctor, 1976
- Spelman University, Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, 1970

Professional Training

Work History

- Judge, Orleans Parish Juvenile Court, Section A
- Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiatives, Chair
- Teen Court Advisory Committee
- Attorney, United States Equal Opportunity Commission
- Attorney, State of Louisiana Attorney General
- Attorney, Baton Rouge Legal Aid Society

Judicial/ Bar Memberships

- American Judges Association, 1988
- Louisiana Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges
 - Treasurer, 2008
 - President, 1991-92
 - Vice-President, 1990-91
 - Secretary-Treasurer, 1989-90
- National Association of Women Judges, 1985
- National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, 1985- Present
 - Federal Legislation Committee, Chair; NCJFCJ/National CASA Association Judicial Liaison Committee, Vice-Chair; Disproportionate Representation of Minority Children in Out of Home Placements Committee; Membership Committee; Nominations Committee; Victims Act Model Court Lead Judges Committee, 2007-2008
 - President, 2001-2002
 - President-Elect, 2000-2001



- Treasurer, 1998
- Secretary, 1997
- Permanency Planning Committee (Chair), 1992
- Committee on Bias; Permanency Planning Committee (Co-Chair), 1991C.A.S.A.; Committee on Bias; Metropolitan Court Judges; Permanency Planning Training and Project Advisory, 1990
- Judicial Response to Disproportionate Incarceration of Minority Youth in America Committee; Metropolitan Court Judges; Permanency Planning Training and Project Advisory, 1989
- Abuse and Neglect; CASA; Digest; Metropolitan Court Judges; Paternity & Child Support Enforcement; Permanency Planning, 1988
- Digest Committee; Permanency Planning Training Subcommittee; Violent Chronic Offenders, 1987
- Association for Women Attorneys, 1985
- New Orleans Association of Black Women Attorneys, 1985
- National Bar Association, 1982
- Greater New Orleans Louis A. Martinet Legal Society, Inc., 1977- Present
President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer
- Louisiana State Bar Association, 1976
- Children's Law Committee, 2010- Present
- American Bar Association, 1976
- Criminal Justice Section Council, 2004-2008
- Vice Chair, Criminal Justice Section Council, 2008-2009
- Commission on Youth at Risk, 2010- Present Co-Chair, Juvenile Justice Committee of the Criminal Law Section, 1999- 2006
- Executive Committee of National Conference of Specialized Court Judges of the Judicial Division, 2002
- District 7 Representative, 2002-2007
- Secretary, 2007-2008
- Vice-Chair, 2008-2009

Civic and Community Memberships/Committees

- New Orleans Chapter Links, Inc., 1985-Present
President, 2006-Present
President, 1994-1996
- Delta Sigma Theta Inc., 1979-Present
- New Orleans Chapter National Alumnae, 1978-Present
Association of Spelman College,
President, 1995-1997

Task Forces:

- 1995-Present Chair, Supreme Court Advisory Committee: Court Improvement Program (Child Advocacy Resource Effort)
- 1994 Co-Chair, Mayor's Task Force on Children, Youth and Families
- 1991 Task Force on Welfare Reform, Chair
- 1990 Steering Committee, New Orleans Public School Task Force on Early Childhood Education
- 1985 Orleans Parish School Board Dropout Prevention Task Force, Chair

Commissions:

- 1986-2007 Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement

Boards:

- 2001-Present National CASA Association Board of Trustees
- 2008-2010 President
- 2007-2008 President Elect
- 2006-2007 Vice President
- 2004-2010 Reclaiming Youth International
- 2003-2004 Louisiana Juvenile Justice Planning and Coordination Board, appointed by the Louisiana Supreme Court
- 2003-2009 Ursuline Academy of New Orleans
- 2002 National Association of Counsel for Children's Council Juvenile Attorney Certification
- National Advisory Board
- 1998-2005 Associated Marine Institute
- 1997 New Orleans Youth at Risk
- 1996-2005 Young Women's Christian Association President, 2002-2004
- 1995-1997 Boys and Girls Club
- 1995-1997 Travelers Aid Society
- 1993-2001 National Council of Negro Women of Greater New Orleans
- 1992-2007 Volunteers of America Chair, 1997-1999

1991-1998	Institute of Mental Hygiene
1991-1997	Louisiana Bar Foundation
	Kids Chance Committee, 2007-Present
1991-1994	Louisiana Special Olympics
1990-1999	New Orleans Marine Institute
	Chair, 1995-1997
1990-1995	Milne Boys' Home FOCUS, Intensive
	Home-Based Family Preservation Program
1989-1997	YMCA, Operation Mainstream, Chair 1993
1988-1995	Union Baptist Theological Seminary
1988-	Present New Orleans Job Corps Community Relations
	Board; Chair, 1990-1994
1987-1989	Edna McConnell Clark Foundation
1987-1990	Kingsley House Family Preservation Program
1987-1991	Southeast Louisiana Girl Scouts, Inc.
1987-1993	United Way of Greater New Orleans
1987-	Present Young Men's Christian Association,
	Chair, 1998
1986-1990	Urban League Parent Child Center
1985-Present	Legal Aid Bureau
1985-2004	One Church One Child
2010-Present	The Children's Bureau Centennial Blue Ribbon

Committee

Civic And Social:

1985-	Present New Orleans Chapter Links, Inc.
	President, 2006-Present
	President, 1994-1996
1979-	Present Delta Sigma Theta Inc.
1978-	Present New Orleans Chapter National Alumnae
	Association of Spelman College,
	President, 1995-1997

Instructor:

Gulf Coast Regional Program, National Institute for Trial Advocacy

Miscellaneous:

1992-2008	Consulting Editor, Journal of Emotional
	Behavior
1989	Louisiana Children's Code Committee

Awards:

2008	Honorary Membership, Louisiana Chapter
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- of the Order of the Coif
- 2004 Recipient of Spirit of Crazy Horse Award
Reclaiming Youth International, June 2004
- 2002 Albert Elias Award for Advancement of
Compassionate Care of Troubled Youth,
National Council on Crime and Delinquency
Louis A. Martinet Legal Society, Ernest
N. Morial Judicial Pacesetter Award
- 2000 Office of Juvenile Justice and
Delinquency Prevention, recognition for
Achievements that have made the future
Safer and brighter for children and
Families in America's communities
Alliance for Good Government Certificate
of Merit for her judicial temperament and
outstanding service.
- 1997 Family Service of Greater New Orleans
TOP Award
- 1995 American Bar Association Flaschner Judicial Award
- 1995 Patricia Richelle Day Care Center Woman of Distinction
- 1993 YMCA Role Model
- 1991 Metropolitan YMCA Volunteer of the Year
- 1986 100 Women in the Forefront
- 1986 Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Outstanding Achievement in Law

Papers, Presentation And Speeches:

Presenter "Managing Diversity and the Colors of Juvenile Justice"
Conference, 11/18/91, Chicago, Illinois

Presenter, "Maintaining Families-Continuing to Make Reasonable
Efforts Work,"

12/12/91, Covington, Georgia

Presentation, New York Regional Substance Abuse Training, "NCJFCJ
Protocol for Making Reasonable

Efforts to Preserve Families in Drug Related Dependency Cases," 2/28-
29/92, Westchester, New York

Presentation, New York Regional Substance Abuse Training, "NCJFCJ
Protocol for Making Reasonable

Efforts to Preserve Families in Drug Related Dependency Cases," 2/10-
11/92, Syracuse, New York

Presenter, Juvenile Justice Policy Conference, 4/25-26/92, Washington, D.C.

Presenter, National Court Appointed Special Advocates Association Annual Conference, "NCJFCJ Protocol in Drug Related Dependency Cases", 5/16-19/92, Nashville, Tennessee

Keynote Address, Institute for Bioethic Health Policy and Law, "Genetic Bonds in Family Law: The Challenge of DNA Parentage Testing," March 27-28, 2003, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Presentation, "Are African American Children Receiving All the Benefits of the Adoption and Safe Families Act?" Eighth Annual Conference, National Association of Black Social Workers Southwest Regional Conference, October 30 – November 1, 2003 New Orleans, Louisiana

Presenter: Effective Intervention in Domestic Violence & Child Maltreatment Cases: Guidelines for Policy & Practices Better Known as The Green Book. Statewide Domestic Violence Summit, Making the Difference: Together We Can November 6, 2003, Orlando, Florida

Presentation, National Conference of State Legislatures, "Reasonable Efforts," January 2-4, 1994, Scottsdale, Arizona

Co-Presenter: "Effective Intervention in Domestic Violence & Child Maltreatment Cases: Guidelines for Policy and Practices." Georgia Juvenile Court Judges Spring Conference, May 4, 2004 Savannah, Georgia

Presenter: Finding Balance in the Battered Women's Movement: What Judges Can Do, Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence Annual Conference, May 19, 2004, Orlando, Florida

Presenter: Judicial Perspective on Disproportionality and Youth Transition From Foster Care, 2004 Arizona Judicial Conference, Casey Family Programs, Juvenile Court Judges, Luncheon and Training Session, June 25, 2004, Tucson, Arizona

Testimony given at Senate Hearing: "Juvenile Detention Centers: Are We Warehousing Children with

Mental Illness?" Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs, July 7, 2004, Washington, D.C.

Panelist, What is a Family? An Exploration of Parentage Issues, A Friendly Seminar at the Beyond

the Bench XV Judicial Council of California Conference, December 8-10, 2004, San Jose, California.

Panelist, Supporting Educational Success For Children in Out-of-Home Care: Tools and Resources

for Education Advocacy in the Courtroom and Beyond, 10th Annual Conference, Los Angeles County

Superior Court, November 10, 2005, Los Angeles, California.

Faculty, Superior Direct and Cross Examination: Demonstrations from TrialMasters of the ABA

Criminal Justice Section and the South Carolina Bar, Criminal Justice Section, 2008 Spring Meeting,

Charleston, South Carolina

Faculty, Placing Teens with Families: Preventing and Reducing Reliance on Congregate Care,

National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, 71st Annual Conference, Norfolk, Virginia

Panelist, Women in Criminal Law and the Criminal Justice System, American Bar Association

Criminal Justice Section, August 7, 2008, New York, New York

Publications:

2003 The Media - Don't Believe the Hype, Stanford Law & Policy Review, Vol. 14.1, (2003).

1999 The Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 Confronting on American Tragedy, Louisiana Bar Journal, Vol. 46, No.6, April 1999.

1992 ABA Center on Children and the Law/State Justice Institute

Project on

Parental Substance Abuse: Child Abuse and Neglect Bench Book