

BIOGRAPHY OF JUDGE CARLA L. GARRETT

Judge Carla L. Garrett was appointed to the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, by Governor Gavin Newsom on November 13, 2020. She is currently assigned to the Family Law division in Long Beach at the George Deukmejian Courthouse, Department S14.

Prior, Judge Garrett served as an Administrative Law Judge III for the State of California beginning in 2008 after joining the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH). She worked in its Special Education Division for more than four years, where she heard matters determining whether children with disabilities were provided with a free and appropriate public education, including the proper educational placement and the appropriate services, all designed to meet the unique needs of each child. In April 2013, Judge Garrett served in OAH's General Jurisdiction Division where she presided over matters for state agencies concerning the issuance or discipline of professional or occupational licenses, teacher disciplinary and dismissal matters, county and municipal matters, disability and retirement benefits matters, and cases regarding services for individuals with development disabilities. Moreover, she served on training panels for annual statewide administrative law judge trainings, including a comprehensive presentation concerning the duty of judicial officers to guard against implicit bias, particularly when assessing witness credibility.

Before joining OAH, Judge Garrett served as Deputy Trial Counsel for the State Bar of California, where she spent more than a decade prosecuting attorneys for professional misconduct. As a graduate of UCLA, where she received her bachelor's degree in psychology in 1985, and of USC Gould School of Law, where she received her juris doctor in 1988, Judge Garrett has worked in both large and small firms specializing in business litigation, civil rights, personal injury, and insurance defense.

Judge Garrett currently serves on the Executive Board of the Association of African American California Judicial Officers (AAACJO) as its Treasurer, and prior as its Secretary. The primary objective of AAACJO is to promote diversity, mentoring and advancement in the judiciary. Its members consist of justices, judges, commissioners, magistrates, and other judicial officers throughout the State of California. Prior, Judge Garrett served on the Los Angeles County Bar Association's Diversity in the Profession committee and on its Diversity and the Bench subcommittee. Judge Garrett is a judiciary member of the Long Beach Bar Association and currently serves on its scholarship committee. Additionally, she is a member of the California Association of Black Lawyers and its Judicial Council, as well as a judiciary member of the John M. Langston Bar Association. Judge Garrett is also a member of the Black Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles, Inc.

Judge Garrett has also participated in several non-legal community outreach projects. Specifically, she participated in the Dream Girl Foundation, a non-profit organization designed to help girls and women of all ages understand their worth, overcome negative forces such as abuse, self-doubt, and low self-esteem, and pursue their dreams. She also participated in Umoja, which is a statewide organization dedicated to enhancing the cultural and educational experiences for community college students of color and promoting academic success. In that regard, she conducted workshops at Umoja conferences designed to help students eliminate barriers to their success. Finally, Judge Garrett, along with a group of dynamic women,

periodically hosted a women's empowerment group, titled "EmpowHer," which facilitated and supported the betterment of women. The group discussed topics affecting women and invited guest speakers to provide guidance in the areas of finances, women's health, counseling, the law, and others.

Finally, Judge Garrett is the author of a few novels—*Bouncing Back After Dropping the Ball* and *A Little Child Shall Lead Them*—both designed to encourage others to live their best lives. She is currently working on several children's books and poetry projects, and has also served as the editor of several published works by other authors.