



**National Consortium on  
Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts**

**2020 Virtual Symposium  
October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**Session B:  
Ensuring Equal Access to Justice Through the Courts:  
A Leadership Roundtable with Chief Justices**

**Speaker Biographies**



**Hon. Anna Blackburne-Rigsby** became Chief Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals in March 2017. As Chief Judge, she chairs the District of Columbia Courts' Joint Committee on Judicial Administration. She has served on the Court of Appeals since 2006. Associate Judge, Superior Court of the District of Columbia, 2000-06. Magistrate Judge, Superior Court of the District of Columbia, 1995-2000. Deputy Corporation Counsel in charge of the Family Services Division, District of Columbia Office of the Corporation Counsel (now District of Columbia Office of the Attorney General). Special Counsel to the Corporation Counsel. Associate, Hogan Lovells US LLP (formerly Hogan and Hartson).

Member: CCJ Board of Directors; Chair, Public Engagement, Trust, and Confidence Committee of CCJ; Chair, National Center for State Courts' Community Engagement in the State Courts Initiative; former Commissioner, District of Columbia's Access to Justice Commission and served as Chair; former member of the District of Columbia Courts' Standing Committee on Fairness and Access; former Chair and Moderator, National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts; Past President, National Association of Women Judges, 2013-14; former Chair, Washington Bar Association's Judicial Council; Board of Managerial Trustees, International Association of Women Judges (Chair, 2010-14). B.A. (political science), Duke University. Law degree, Howard University School of Law. Born May 6. Married to Judge Robert R. Rigsby; one son (Julian).

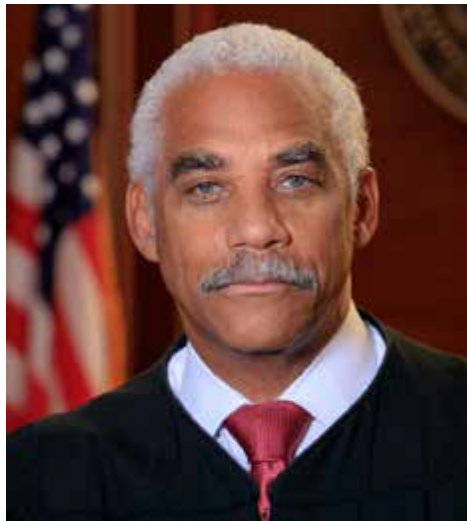
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**Hon. Richard Blake** is the Chief Judge of the Hoopa Valley Tribe, contractual Chief Judge for the Redding Rancheria and Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation Tribal Courts and is a member of the Hoopa Valley Tribe. He is the President of the National American Indian Court Judges Association and a member of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ). Chief Judge Blake, in cooperation with the NCJFCJ, leads a local School Pathways to the Juvenile Justice System Project, a collaborative

effort to reduce referrals of youth to juvenile courts for school-based misbehaviors and to expand the use of positive disciplinary practices in schools. Chief Judge Blake is the former co-chair of the California Tribal-State Forum and current member of the California Federal-Tribal Forum by appointment of California Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye.

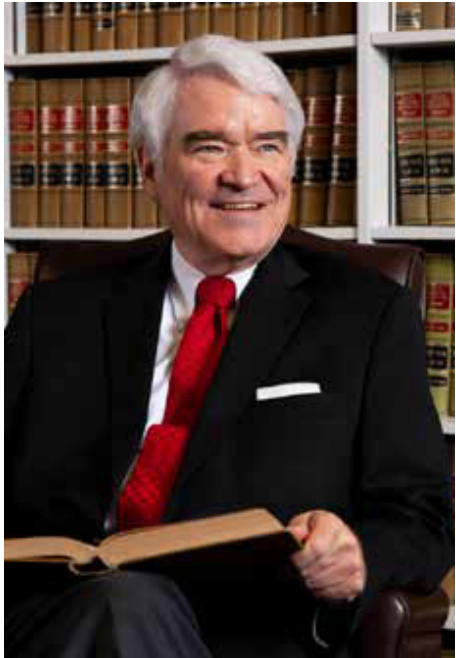
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**Hon. George William Draper III** was appointed to the Missouri Supreme Court on October 19, 2011 by Gov. Jeremiah Nixon and retained for a 12-year term in 2012. He was appointed to the Missouri Court of Appeals, Eastern District, by Gov. Mel Carnahan on May 16, 2000, where he served as the appellate court's first African-American Chief Judge, July 2004-June 2005, and authored approximately 612 opinions. Appointed Circuit Judge, 21st Judicial Circuit, by Gov. Carnahan, June 1998; Associate Circuit Judge, July 1994. Office of the Circuit Attorney, 1984-94: Appointed First

Assistant by Circuit Attorney Dee Joyce-Hayes, January 1993. Law Clerk to Hon. Shellie Bowers, District of Columbia Superior Court, 1981. Member: Missouri Bar, Mound City Bar Association, Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis (BAMSL), Lawyers Association of St. Louis, National Bar Association, Missouri Asian Bar Association. Inaugural Member, Gallery of St. Louis Legal Pioneers with the BAMSL. Trial Advocacy Adjunct Professor, St. Louis University School of Law. Bachelor of Arts (psychology), Morehouse College, Atlanta. Juris Doctorate, Howard University School of Law, Washington, D.C. Married to Hon. Judy P. Draper, former General Counsel, State of Missouri Department of Corrections, and former Associate Circuit Judge, 21st Judicial Circuit Court.

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**Hon. Nathan L. Hecht** is the 27th Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Texas. He was first elected to the Court in 1988 as a Justice and was reelected four times. He was appointed Chief Justice by Gov. Rick Perry on October 1, 2013 and elected in 2014. He is longest-serving member of the Court in Texas history, and the longest-tenured Texas judge in active service. Throughout his service on the Court, Chief Justice Hecht has overseen revisions to the rules of administration, practice, and procedure in Texas courts and was appointed by the Chief Justice of the United States to the federal Advisory Committee on Civil Rules. Since 2010, Chief Justice Hecht has been responsible for the Court's efforts to ensure that Texans living below the poverty level

have access to basic civil legal services. Chief Justice Hecht was appointed to the District Court in 1981 and was elected to the Court of Appeals in 1986. Before taking the bench, he was a partner in the Locke firm in Dallas. He served as a law clerk to Judge Roger Robb on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. He also served in the U.S. Navy Reserve Judge Advocate General Corps. He is a life member of the American Law Institute and a member of Council. BA (philosophy, honors), Yale University. JD (Hatton W. Sumners Scholar), SMU School of Law.

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**Hon. Susan F. Maven** was sworn in as a New Jersey Superior Court Judge on December 18, 2001. She is the first and only African American woman to be appointed to the Superior Court in Atlantic and Cape May County. She has been assigned to the Family Division in Atlantic County and the Criminal Division in Atlantic and Cape May Counties. Judge Maven served in the Appellate Division from 2012 to 2016. In 2016, she returned to the Family Division where she presides over the juvenile delinquency docket and other family court cases.

As the presiding juvenile judge, Judge Maven was selected to oversee the development and implementation of a novel pilot program in Atlantic County for court-involved youth who are victims or at-risk of exploitation by sex trafficking.

The YES (Youth Empowered for Success) Program is designed to assess the extent of trauma experienced by the youth and provide them support and services to address their needs. The program began in Atlantic County in 2017 and has expanded to Passaic, Ocean and Camden Counties. Judge Maven has presented and trained on Human Trafficking and Child Custody matters at several conferences in New Jersey and nationally.

Judge Maven is an ardent proponent of diversity and equity initiatives for the court system. Judge Maven was appointed chair of the Atlantic/Cape May Vicinage Advisory Committee on Minority Affairs and the Supreme Court Committee on Minority Affairs (SCCMC) in 2004. In 2009, Chief Justice Stuart Rabner appointed her to Chair the SCCMC for an initial two-year term and reappointed her in 2011. Judge Maven is the first and only woman to serve as Chairman in the Committee's 35-year plus history. She served until her tenure on the Committee ended in 2014.

In January 2011, Chief Justice Stuart Rabner created the Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Access and Fairness (the Advisory Committee) to ensure that the judiciary—as an institution—embraces “Access and Fairness” as an integral part of our core values. The Advisory Committee was tasked to establish protocols to ensure a bias free Judiciary and provide equal access and quality service to maintain the public satisfaction, trust and confidence. By virtue of her role with the SCCMC, Judge Maven was appointed Vice Chair of the Committee. She served on the Committee until January 2020.

Judge Maven was elected to the Board of Directors of the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts in 2008. She became the President/Moderator in July 2018. The National Consortium is comprised of organizations and individual members from across the country dedicated to ensuring diversity, access and equity in legal and judicial systems. The National Consortium provides technical assistance and expertise to commissions, task forces, and other interested organizations and individuals about racial and ethnic fairness. Toward that end, Judge Maven has participated at diversity awareness conferences, programs and community engagement programs in various states including Nebraska, Florida, Minnesota, Louisiana, Virginia, Colorado, Nevada and Washington, DC. and on Native American tribal lands. In October 2019, she was a presenter at the National American Indian Court Judges Association (NAICJA) Conference in Minnesota. New Jersey, one of the National Consortium's initial founding states, will host of the 32nd Annual Conference in New Brunswick April 29-May 2, 2020.

Judge Maven is an active member of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ). She is a member of the International Committees and is Vice Chairperson of the Diversity Committee. She is a participant of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Initiative, a project sponsored by the NCJFCJ. Through a series of collaborative summit meetings, representatives from leading national organizations within the judiciary and legal profession convene to identify potential projects that participants can work on together to improve diversity within the legal profession. The goal of the DEI Project is to amass the collective strength of our memberships to make a demonstrable impact on the legal profession on issues of common interest.

Judge Maven began her legal career in Atlantic City in 1987 at Horn, Kaplan, Goldberg, Gorny & Daniels practicing in the Land Use, Zoning and Planning group and representing casino clients and large developers before Planning and Zoning Boards of Adjustment. Thereafter, she was in-house counsel and affirmative action director for the Atlantic County Improvement Authority, from 1989 – 1998. In 1998, Governor Christine Todd Whitman selected Judge Maven as the first Atlantic City resident appointed to serve as a Commissioner on the New Jersey Casino Control Commission. She held the position until her judicial appointment in 2001.

Judge Maven remains active in the community participating in legal and civic events. She speaks extensively at schools, churches, and community centers on a variety of topics including, civics and basic principles of law, cyber-bully, the impact of adverse childhood experiences and human trafficking. She mentors youth, particularly girls, and women, providing motivational talks on study skills, money management, self-empowerment, self-esteem, career development, resilience, etc. She is an active Temple Law School alumnus and visits annually to speak to students about “Life after Law School.” She participates in the Vicinage I “One Judge – One School” programs and speaks to numerous schools in Atlantic County each year. She judges the Atlantic County Bar Association Mock Trial and Temple Law School Moot Court competitions. Judge Maven is an active member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. and past president of the Atlantic City Alumnae Chapter.

Judge Maven has been recognized by numerous organizations for her service to the community and legal profession. She received the Atlantic County Bar Association - Benjamin A. Rimm Award as its Outstanding Young Lawyer of 1992. In 1993, the New Jersey Perspective News Magazine named her Outstanding Black Woman of South Jersey. She has received the Volunteer of the Year Award from the Volunteer Center of Atlantic County in 1991 and was chosen as one of The City News’ 100 Most Influential Persons in New Jersey in 1999. Judge Maven

received the distinguished “Women Who Make A Difference” Award from the Atlantic County Chapter of Zonta International in 2001. In 2002, Judge Maven was inducted into the Atlantic County Women’s Hall of Fame for outstanding public service.

Judge Maven graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, PA in 1983 and the Temple University Beasley School of Law in Philadelphia, PA in 1987.

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**Justice Raquel Montoya-Lewis** was appointed to the Washington State Supreme Court by Governor Jay Inslee in December 2019 and took the oath of office on January 6, 2020. Justice Montoya-Lewis is an enrolled member of the Pueblo of Isleta and a descendant of the Pueblo of Laguna, two federally recognized tribes in New Mexico. She is the first enrolled member of any tribe to sit on a state supreme court in the U.S. and the second Native American to sit on a state supreme court. She is also of Jewish descent. Prior to becoming an Associate Justice, she served as a Superior Court judge for Whatcom County for five years, where she heard criminal and civil trials and presided over the Whatcom County Therapeutic Drug Court. In the 15 years prior to her work on the Superior Court, she served as a tribal court judge for multiple tribes in the Pacific Northwest and the Southwest. She served as Chief Judge for the Upper Skagit Indian Tribe, the Nooksack Indian Tribe, and the Lummi Nation. In addition to her work as a tribal court judge, she was a tenured Associate Professor at Western Washington University’s Fairhaven College where she taught law-related courses and courses on cultural identity development. She has continued to use her teaching skills as a jurist, teaching a wide variety of audiences including judges, social workers, lawyers, and advocates on implicit bias, the Indian Child Welfare Act, and best practices in child welfare and domestic violence cases. Justice Montoya-Lewis graduated with her BA degree from the University of New Mexico in 1992 and completed her law degree and Master of Social Work degree at the University of Washington in 1995 and 1996 respectively.

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**Chief Justice Stuart Rabner** was nominated to serve on the Supreme Court by Gov. Jon S. Corzine on June 4, 2007. He was confirmed by the Senate on June 21, 2007 and took the oath of office on June 29, 2007. He was nominated for tenure by Gov. Chris Christie and was sworn in on June 20, 2014. Chief Justice Rabner previously served as the State Attorney General and as Chief Counsel to Gov. Corzine. He clerked for Hon. Dickinson R. Debevoise, U.S. District Judge. He joined the U.S. Attorney's Office in Newark in 1986 as an Assistant U.S. Attorney and held numerous posts over the years including First Assistant U.S. Attorney and Chief of the Terrorism

Unit. He was Chief of the office's Criminal Division when he left to join the Corzine administration in January 2006. He is a member of the Council of the American Law Institute and of the Board of Directors of NYU's Institute of Judicial Administration. He served as a member of the CCJ Board of Directors from 2010-12. He has served as Chair of the Holocaust Resource Center at the Jewish Federation of Clifton-Passaic. He graduated from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University in 1982 and from Harvard Law School in 1985. Chief Justice Rabner was born on June 30, 1960, in Passaic. He and his wife, the former Deborah Wiener, have three children: Erica, Carly, and Jack.