

**THE HONORABLE MELVIN R. WRIGHT
ASSOCIATE JUDGE
SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

Judge Melvin R. Wright was appointed to the Superior Court of the District of Columbia in 1998 by President William Jefferson Clinton. He has served in Juvenile and Criminal Division assignments. From January 2001 – December 2002 Judge Wright was the Presiding Judge for the Superior Court Drug Intervention Program (Drug Court), where he monitored and conducted review hearings in family court cases where drug addicted parents and their children were the issues. Judge Wright was assigned to a civil trial calendar from January 2003 to December 2007 where he decided numerous civil pleadings, conducted various hearings and pretrial conferences, and presided over jury and non-jury trials. He was appointed the Deputy Presiding Judge for the Civil Division in January 2008. Judge Wright is currently the Presiding Judge for the Civil Division.

Judge Wright was a member of the Task Force on Gender Bias in the District of Columbia Courts in 1991 and 1992, and he continues to serve as a Member of the Board of the Robert A. Shuker Scholarship Fund, an organization which raises money for District of Columbia students who wish to attend college and law school. Judge Wright is a member of the DCSC Rules Committee. He also serves on, and chairs the Amenities and Misfortune Committee, the Jury Committee and the Small Claims Advisory Rules Subcommittee.

Judge Wright was born in Baltimore, Maryland. He attended Calvin Coolidge High School in Washington, D.C. and graduated in 1968. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from the University of the District of Columbia in 1977 and his law degree in 1982 from the Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, D.C.

Judge Wright joined the Superior Court of the District of Columbia as a Landlord and Tenant/Small Claims Clerk in June 1972. He was promoted to Bailiff in 1973, to Civil Pretrial Clerk and then Civil Courtroom Clerk in 1974, and to Civil Motions Clerk in 1977.

In June 1981, Judge Wright obtained a judicial clerkship with the late Superior Court Associate Judge Robert A. Shuker, in which he worked in felony trials. From January 1983 through January 1986, Judge Wright was an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia, rotating through the misdemeanor, appellate, grand jury, and felony trial sections of the Office. In February 1986, Judge Wright joined the law firm of Montedonico, Hamilton & Altman as an Associate Attorney, where he worked on civil and criminal trials. He became a partner in September 1991, remaining with the firm until his appointment to the bench.