

# CHICAGO

ABA Section of Litigation  
Section Annual  
Conference  
April 24–26, 2013  
JW Marriott



**HON. BERNICE B. DONALD** was nominated to the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit by President Barack Obama on December 1, 2010, and re-nominated in January 2011. She was confirmed by the Senate on September 6, 2011. Prior to the Court of Appeals, Judge Donald served on the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Tennessee, where she was appointed by President William Jefferson Clinton in December 1995. Judge Donald served as Judge of U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Tennessee from June 1988 to January 1996. She was the first African American woman in the history of the United States to serve as a bankruptcy judge. When she was elected to the General Sessions Criminal Court in 1982, she became the first African American woman to serve as a judge in the history of the State of Tennessee. She received her law degree from the University of Memphis School of Law where she later served as an adjunct faculty member and a member of the Alumni and Law Alumni Board of Directors. She frequently serves as faculty for the Federal Judicial Center and the National Judicial College. She served on the Board of Directors of the Federal Judicial Center. In 1996, Chief Justice Rehnquist appointed Judge Donald to the Judicial Conference Advisory Committee on Bankruptcy Rules where she served for six years. In 2011, Chief Justice Roberts appointed her to an indefinite term on the Judicial Branch Committee of the Judicial Conference of the United States.

Judge Donald is extremely active in the American, Tennessee, and Memphis Bar Associations, serving in vital leadership roles on key committees. In August 2011, she concluded a three year term as Secretary of the 430,000 member American Bar Association, and currently serves as a member of the House of Delegates, the Nominating Committee, in section leadership, and the ABA Board of Journal Editors.

Judge Donald has served as faculty for numerous international judicial training and legal/technical capacity building programs, including programs in: Romania, Turkey, Brazil, Bosnia, Botswana, South Africa, Senegal, Tanzania, and Russia. Judge Donald lectured in various Republics of the former Soviet Union, including Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazan, Moscow, and Krasnodar. In 2003, Judge Donald led a People to People delegation to Johannesburg and Capetown, South Africa. In June 2003, Judge Donald traveled to Zimbabwe to monitor the trial of a judge accused of judicial misconduct.

Judge Donald has served as President of the National Association of Women Judges and the Association of Women Attorneys. She has chaired numerous legal, judicial, and civic organizations. She has worked with Leadership Memphis to provide leadership training for Memphis Housing Authority residents. And in June 2005, Judge Donald co-founded 4-Life, a skills training and enrichment program for students 6-15 designed to teach children to become positive productive citizens. She is working to implement the program in schools located in areas of concentrated poverty. Judge Donald is a member of ZETA PHI BETA Sorority.

Judge Donald is married to W.L. Donald, and is the daughter of Mrs. Willie Bell Bowie, and the deceased Mr. Perry Bowie.