



Maxine Aldridge White, L'85

Chief Judge White, a 26-plus-year veteran of the state trial courts, was appointed by the Wisconsin Supreme Court in 2015 to lead the First Judicial District [Milwaukee County]. She is the county's first African-American and only the second female to serve as chief judge. The daughter of sharecroppers, Chief Judge White credits her parents, siblings, and mentors with paving her way.

As the full-time administrator of Wisconsin's largest judicial district, she oversees budgetary, personnel, and public affairs matters. Prior to her appointment as the chief judge, she held other leadership positions, including deputy chief judge and presiding judge. For more than two decades, Chief Judge White also presided over a variety of judicial calendars, including large claims in the Civil Division, family, homicide, sexual assault, felony drug, gun, and domestic violence cases.

Additionally, Chief Judge White is the Chair of the Executive Committee of the Milwaukee Community Justice Council. During her tenure on the Council and through collaborative work with a coalition of leaders, the MacArthur Foundation awarded more than \$4 million in funds to support joint goals of addressing racial disparities in the justice system, implementing front-end measures to ensure the appropriate use of jails, and improving public safety. In 2012, she was named one of the Leaders in the Law by the *Wisconsin Law Journal*.

Immediately upon graduation from Marquette Law School, Chief Judge White was appointed as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Eastern District of Wisconsin where she represented the federal government in criminal, civil, and bankruptcy matters. During this time, she was specially assigned as legal advisor and instructor for the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Brunswick, Georgia, providing instruction to federal trial attorneys, federal agents, and state and local law enforcement across the nation.

Chief Judge White, a frequent visitor to the Law School, received the Marquette Law School Law Alumna of the Year award in 2017 and presided over the inaugural future attorney's pledge for the incoming Marquette Law School class in 2019.