



JUDGE PAMELA R. GOODWINE

Judge Pamela R. Goodwine was born and raised in Youngstown, Ohio. She moved to Lexington in November of 1979 to begin her career as a court reporter and began her studies at the University of Kentucky the following year. Despite many tragedies and obstacles, including surviving a life threatening illness, Judge Goodwine graduated with honors from the University of Kentucky, Carol Martin Gatton College of Business in 1991. She graduated from the University of Kentucky College of Law in 1994 and was admitted to practice law in the Commonwealth of Kentucky in October 1994.

Judge Goodwine was employed by the law firm of Wyatt, Tarrant & Combs from 1994 until her appointment to the bench in August of 1999. Judge Goodwine became the first African American woman to be appointed and subsequently elected to the bench in Fayette County, Kentucky. Prior to her appointment to the bench, she served as a commissioner of and also chaired the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights. Since 1997, Judge Goodwine has served as treasurer of the National Bar Association, John Rowe Chapter in Lexington.

Judge Goodwine was inducted into the Carol Martin Gatton College of Business and Economics Alumni Hall of Fame in February 2000. She was named the Fayette County Bar Association's 2001 Outstanding Young Lawyer. Judge Goodwine became Chief Regional District Judge in December 2002. She was elected to the Fayette Circuit Court in November 2003 to complete an unexpired term and was elected to a full term in November 2006.

Judge Goodwine served as Regional Vice-Chief for the 22nd Judicial Circuit from 2008 to 2016 and was elected to serve as Regional Chief Judge for the 22nd Judicial Circuit in December 2016. From 2011 to 2018, Judge Goodwine voluntarily presided over Fayette County Specialty Court to help individuals battling addiction become productive members of their communities. On September 21, 2012, Judge Goodwine received the Henry V. Pennington Trial Judge of the Year Award from the Kentucky Justice Association. On December 3, 2017, Judge Goodwine was inducted into the Nu Circle of Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Honorary at the University of Kentucky. In total, she served over 19 years as a trial judge.

In November 2018, Judge Goodwine was elected to the Kentucky Court of Appeals for the 5th Appellate District covering 11 counties: Anderson, Bourbon, Boyle, Clark, Fayette, Franklin, Jessamine, Madison, Mercer, Scott and Woodford counties. In November 2022, Judge Goodwine was again elected to the 5th Appellate District which now covers the following 8 counties: Bourbon, Clark, Fayette, Franklin, Jessamine, Madison, Scott and Woodford.

Judge Goodwine has been honored with the Kentucky's Women Making History Award by the Kentucky Commission on Women in 2018, the African American Achievement Award by the Glover Foundation in 2018, the Carl M. Brashear Walking By Faith Award by the Carter G. Woodson Academy in April 2018, Fair Administration of Justice Award from the Kentucky Academy of Defense Lawyers in April 2019, Distinguished Jurist Award from the UK College of Law Alumni Association in June 2019, Torch of Excellence Award from the UK College of Law Alumni Association in October 2019, one of Kentucky Gazette's 2020 Most Notable Women in Kentucky Politics and Government, and 2022 Woman of the Year from the Fayette County Bar Association Women Lawyers Association.

In 2020, Judge Goodwine was nominated by then Kentucky Supreme Court Chief Justice John Minton for the intensive Duke University School of Law Master of Laws program which she successfully completed in May 2023.

Judge Goodwine is actively involved in many professional and community organizations including the Kentucky Bar Association, National Bar Association – John Rowe Chapter, Central Kentucky American Inns of Court, Lexington Forum, Women Leading Kentucky and Kentucky Association of Professional African American Women.

Judge Goodwine is married to Lee Padgett, Jr. Although she has no children of her own, she is grateful to all of her staff attorneys, past and present, for giving her grandchildren to love and the name Grandma Judge. She also includes furbabies in her beloved role as Grandma Judge and has three grandpups.