

**THE HONORABLE DANYA A. DAYSON
ASSOCIATE JUDGE
SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

Danya Dayson was nominated by President Barack Obama on July 11, 2011 and was confirmed by the US Senate on November 5, 2011.

Danya Dayson was born in New York City and was raised in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. She received Bachelor of Arts degrees in Political Science and Russian /Eastern European Studies from Appalachian State University. Judge Dayson received her JD from Georgetown University Law Center in 1998.

Upon graduation from law school, Judge Dayson practiced criminal law as a solo practitioner, representing clients in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia in misdemeanor and felony cases. In 2000, Judge Dayson served as a judicial law clerk to the Honorable Judge Robert E. Morin in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

After her clerkship, Judge Dayson was a partner in the firm of Wicks & Dayson. There, she represented clients in criminal matters, both in Superior Court and the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. In addition, she began her family law practice, representing respondents, parents and caretakers in abuse and neglect cases in the Superior Court. Judge Dayson's family law practice also included representing litigants in divorce, custody and child support cases, as well as serving as court appointed *Guardian Ad Litem* in custody cases.

In 2003, Judge Dayson joined the firm of O'Toole, Rothwell, Nassau & Steinbach. There she continued her criminal practice, including representing capital defendants in several federal courts. In addition, she headed the firm's domestic relations practice, serving clients in the area of separation, divorce, custody and child support. Judge Dayson was also part of a team of lawyers who served as outside counsel for several small businesses and non-profit organizations. In this capacity, Judge Dayson appeared on her clients' behalf before agencies, courts and in arbitration. Judge Dayson also served as an adjunct professor at the George Washington School of Law, co-teaching a criminal law seminar on the death penalty.

Prior to taking the bench, Judge Dayson served on the Domestic Relations and Paternity Support Subcommittee of the Family Court Implementation Committee, and the Steering Committee of the Family Law Section of the District of Columbia Bar. Since joining the court, Judge Dayson has served on several committees within the Court, including the serving as Co-Chair for the Family Court Training Committee, Chair of the Family Guide to the District of Columbia Juvenile Justice System Drafting Working Group, serving on the Juvenile Subcommittee, the Family Court Rules Advisory Committee, the Family Court Implementation Committee and the Strategic Planning Leadership Council.

Judge Dayson is married and she and her husband are the proud parents of a daughter.