

THE HONORABLE TRUMAN A. MORRISON III
SENIOR JUDGE
SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Judge Truman A. Morrison III is a Senior Judge of the District of Columbia Superior Court. Following graduation from the University of Wisconsin Law School, Judge Morrison served as law clerk to Chief Judge John W. Reynolds in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin.

In 1971, he began work at the District of Columbia Public Defender Service. For his last four years at PDS, he served as Chief of the Trial Division.

In 1979, President Carter appointed Judge Morrison to the Superior Court. In his more than 36 continuous years as a trial judge, he has presided over civil, criminal, juvenile delinquency, domestic relations, and domestic violence matters. Judge Morrison continues to sit regularly as a Senior Judge, hearing primarily criminal cases.

Judge Morrison taught law school classes on trial advocacy at George Washington and Catholic University law schools. He formerly taught a course entitled “The Craft of Judging” at George Washington University Law School. He has been a faculty member for more than 20 years at the annual Trial Advocacy Workshop at The Harvard Law School.

Judge Morrison has been actively involved in judicial education for more than 25 years in this country and in Europe. For many years he directed all judicial education efforts in his large urban court. He pioneered a mentoring program built around peer courtroom observations for new judges.

Since 2006, Judge Morrison has worked nationally on issues related to pretrial justice. He has spoken widely to judges, pretrial service professionals, prosecutors, defense lawyers, legislators, and others about pretrial issues. Judge Morrison spoke at the Second National Symposium on Pretrial Justice convened by Attorney General Eric Holder. He has worked with judges and others in many jurisdictions including New Mexico, New Jersey, Minnesota, Colorado, Wisconsin, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Idaho, Indiana, Connecticut, Arizona, North Carolina, Maryland, and Michigan. He has long been a faculty member at a week-long, twice-yearly Justice Department workshop for pretrial service executives. He is a recent Chair of The Board of Trustees of The Pretrial Justice Institute. Judge Morrison has discussed pretrial justice issues nationally on Aljazeera television, HBO’s John Oliver Show and HBO’s documentary series “Vice.” In 2015, he spoke at the White House Symposium entitled “A Cycle of Incarceration: Prison, Debt, and Bail Practices”.

Judge Morrison lives in downtown Washington, D.C. with his wife Susan W. Shaffer, Esq., former Director of The D.C. Pretrial Services Agency. Their sons lead The Morrison Brothers Band in Nashville.