

FERN FLANAGAN SADDLER
ASSOCIATE JUDGE
SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

In 2003, President George W. Bush appointed Judge Fern Flanagan Saddler as an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

Judge Saddler received her Bachelor of Arts degree in 1976 from Wellesley College in Wellesley, Massachusetts. After college, she attended Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, D.C., where she received her Juris Doctor degree in 1979.

Upon graduating from law school, Judge Saddler worked as an attorney for the general practice law firm of Mitchell, Shorter & Gartrell, where she was involved in trial and appellate work in local and federal courts in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. In 1984, she became an Assistant Bar Counsel for the District of Columbia Office of Bar Counsel, where she investigated and prosecuted complaints of attorney misconduct. Beginning in 1988, Judge Saddler served as Senior Staff Attorney for the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, where she supervised staff attorneys and court law clerks. From July 1990 through January 1991, she served as Acting Chief Deputy Clerk at the District of Columbia Court of Appeals.

From 1991 to 2003, Judge Saddler served as a Magistrate Judge (formerly known as Hearing Commissioner) of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, where she presided over thousands of matters in the Criminal, Civil, and Family Divisions of the court.

Judge Saddler currently serves as the Presiding Judge of the Domestic Violence Unit, where she has served as an Associate Judge since 2010. As an Associate Judge, Judge Saddler has also served in the Criminal Division, Civil Division, and Family Court.

Judge Saddler has been active in many bar associations and professional organizations, including: the Washington Bar Association; the Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia; the National Association of Women Judges; and the Greater Washington Area Chapter, Women's Lawyers Division of the National Bar Association (GWAC). From 2014 to 2016, she served as the Chair of the Judicial Council Division of the Washington Bar Association.

On February 23, 2016, Judge Saddler was awarded the Charlotte E. Ray Award by the Greater Washington Area, Women Lawyers Division of the National Bar Association. The Charlotte E. Ray Award is awarded every year in recognition of an outstanding African American woman from the Washington area that has been a trailblazer in the legal community. Charlotte E. Ray was the first woman admitted

to practice law in the District of Columbia and the first African American woman certified as a lawyer in the United States. Judge Saddler was awarded the Charlotte E. Ray Award in recognition for her strong commitment to mentorship, outstanding leadership, dedication to the advancement of female attorneys, and overall excellence in the Washington, D.C. community.

Judge Saddler is married to Reverend Dr. Paul Harvey Saddler.