

THE HONORABLE TARA J. FENTRESS
MAGISTRATE JUDGE
SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Tara J. Fentress was sworn in as a Magistrate Judge on October 21, 2002 by Chief Judge Rufus G. King, III.

Magistrate Judge Fentress was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan. She graduated from Wesleyan University in 1986, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology; in 1989, she received her *Juris* Doctorate from Georgetown University Law Center; and in 2012, Judge Fentress graduated from Wesley Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity degree.

In 1992, Judge Fentress established a private law practice where she provided legal representation for abused and neglected children, and personal injury victims. From 1994 to 2009, she served on the D.C. Mayor's Advisory Committee for Child Abuse and Neglect. In September of 2002, Judge Fentress was appointed to the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, where she currently serves in the Family Court. As of 2019, Judge Fentress has dedicated twenty-seven years of her thirty-year legal career to serving children and families in the District of Columbia.

Judge Fentress is a member of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, the National Association of Women Judges Treasurer (local chapter), the Washington Bar Association Judicial Council (Board member); the Greater Washington Area Chapter, Women Lawyers Division of the National Bar Association, the D.C. Women's Bar Association, and the Health Services for Children with Special Needs Community Action Committee. Judge Fentress serves on the Family Court's Panel Oversight Committee, the Family Court Improvement Program Advisory Committee, and serves as a certified Judicial Coach.

Judge Fentress is a former President of the Greater Washington Area Chapter, Women Lawyers Division of the National Bar Association, which in 2017, bestowed upon her the annual *Charlotte E. Ray Award*, recognizing her as a trailblazer. In 2016, Judge Fentress received the *Ideal Leadership Award* from the Nigerian American Bar Association, for exemplifying the legal profession's goal of diversity, inclusion and respect for others, regardless of background and ethnicity.

Judge Fentress is the editor of the children's book series, "Got It Goin' On", which has been featured on the Oprah Winfrey Show. She is also a real estate investor and children's motivational speaker. Since 1987, Judge Fentress has been volunteering at the Washington Center for Aging Services. Additionally, since 1995, she has been singing with gospel music recording artist, "Richard Smallwood & Vision".

In her spare time, Judge Fentress enjoys exercising, traveling and playing golf.