



Susan Fowler Maven, J.S.C.

Hon. Susan F. Maven was sworn in as a New Jersey Superior Court Judge on December 18, 2001 and retired March 1, 2022. She was the first African American woman appointed to the Superior Court in Atlantic and Cape May County. She presided in the Family Division in Atlantic County and the Criminal Division in Atlantic and Cape May Counties. Judge Maven served in the Appellate Division from 2012 to 2016. In 2016, Judge Maven returned to the Family Division where she presided over the juvenile delinquency docket and other family court cases.

As a member of the New Jersey Council on Juvenile Justice System Improvements and its juvenile detention alternative initiatives, Judge Maven received the 2016 Spirit of JDAI Award for Excellence in Collaboration. She was the chair of the Atlantic County JDAI Committee and the Vice Chair of the Atlantic County Youth Services Commission. At the direction of the Chief Justice Stuart Rabner, in 2016-2017, Judge Maven directed the development and implementation of New Jersey's Juvenile Human Trafficking Diversion Program, a pilot program to ensure that court-involved youth who are involved in or at risk of victimization by human/sex trafficking received trauma informed services. The program has expanded to other counties in New Jersey and will be implemented statewide in the future.

Judge Maven is an active member of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ). She serves on the Diversity Committee and the International Committee. Judge Maven has presented on juvenile justice, interstate custody jurisdiction, and human trafficking topics at NCJFCJ conferences.

Judge Maven is a founding member of the National Judicial Network: Forum on Human Trafficking and Immigration in State Courts, a collaborative venture of the National Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project (NIWAP) and the NCJFCJ. She serves as a member of the Steering Committee and the faculty. The Network provides a forum for judges to engage in peer-to-peer learning sessions with judges from across the country, participate in webinars, communicate with other judges in a member-only confidential Listserv, access

topic-specific publications, and in-person trainings on issues that arise in state courts involving human trafficking and immigrant victims.

Judge Maven is an ardent proponent of diversity and equity initiatives for the court system. Judge Maven was appointed chair of the Atlantic/Cape May Vicinage Advisory Committee on Minority Affairs and the Supreme Court Committee on Minority Affairs (SCCMC) in 2004. In 2009, Chief Justice Stuart Rabner appointed her to Chair the SCCMC for an initial two-year term and reappointed her in 2011. Judge Maven is the first and only woman to serve as Chairman in the Committee's 35-year plus history. She served until her tenure on the Committee ended in 2014.

In January 2011, Chief Justice Stuart Rabner created the Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Access and Fairness (the Advisory Committee) to ensure that the judiciary—as an institution—embraces “Access and Fairness” as an integral part of our core values. The Advisory Committee was tasked to establish protocols to ensure a bias free Judiciary and provide equal access and quality service to maintain the public satisfaction, trust, and confidence. By virtue of her role with the SCCMC, Judge Maven was appointed Vice Chair of the Committee. She served on the Committee until January 2020.

Judge Maven was elected to the Board of Directors of the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts (NCREFC) in 2008. She became the President/Moderator in July 2018. The National Consortium is comprised of organizations and individual members from across the country dedicated to ensuring diversity, access and equity in legal and judicial systems. The National Consortium provides technical assistance and expertise to commissions, task forces, and other interested organizations and individuals about racial and ethnic fairness. Toward that end, Judge Maven has participated at diversity awareness conferences, programs and community engagement programs in various states including Nebraska, Florida, Minnesota, Louisiana, Virginia, Colorado, Nevada and Washington, DC., on Native American tribal lands and virtually for recent educational webinars and annual conferences.

In her role as President of the NCREFC, Judge Maven participates in the National Center for State Courts' Blueprint For Racial Justice, a national initiative to develop immediate and recognizable steps toward improving racial justice, equity, and inclusion in the justice system. The Blueprint's goal is to ensure that all court users, litigants, and community members across the country are heard, listened to, and respected by the nation's justice system. Judge Maven participates on the Fairness and Access and the Systemic Change Working Groups.

She is currently the Vice President of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Collaborative, an initiative sponsored by the NCJFCJ. Through a series of collaborative summit meetings,

representatives from leading national organizations within the judiciary and legal profession convene to identify potential projects that participants can work on together to improve diversity within the legal profession. The goal of the DEI Project is to amass the collective strength of our memberships to make a demonstrable impact on the legal profession on issues of common interest.

Judge Maven remains active in the community participating in legal and civic events. She speaks extensively at schools, churches, and community centers on a variety of topics including, civics and basic principles of law, cyber-bully, the impact of adverse childhood experiences and human trafficking, and DEI. She mentors youth, particularly girls, and women, providing motivational talks on various topics including study skills, money management, self-empowerment, self-esteem, career development, resilience, etc. She is an active Temple Law School alumnus and visits annually to speak to students about “Life after Law School.” She participates in the Vicinage I “One Judge – One School” programs and speaks to numerous schools in Atlantic County each year. She judges the Atlantic County Bar Association Mock Trial and Temple Law School Moot Court competitions. Judge Maven is an active member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. and participate in the Delta Academy and Delta GEMS mentoring programs for girls.

Judge Maven has been recognized by numerous organizations for her service to the community and legal profession. She received the Atlantic County Bar Association - Benjamin A. Rimm Award as its Outstanding Young Lawyer of 1992. In 1993, the New Jersey Perspective News Magazine named her Outstanding Black Woman of South Jersey. She has received the Volunteer of the Year Award from the Volunteer Center of Atlantic County in 1991 and was chosen as one of The City News’ 100 Most Influential Persons in New Jersey in 1999. Judge Maven received the distinguished “Women Who Make A Difference” Award from the Atlantic County Chapter of Zonta International in 2001. In 2002, Judge Maven was inducted into the Atlantic County Women’s Hall of Fame for outstanding public service. In February 2022, the New Jersey Judiciary recognized Judge Maven for her many accomplishments as a legal trailblazer, race equity champion, mentor and community advocate.

Judge Maven was born and raised on Long Island, New York. She graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, PA in 1983 and the Temple University Beasley School of Law in Philadelphia, PA in 1987. She and her husband Vince live in Absecon, New Jersey with their fur baby, Myles.