## Tanya Walton Pratt--Short Biographical Sketch

**TANYA WALTON PRATT** is a graduate of Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia, and a graduate of Howard University School of Law in Washington, D.C. She was elected Judge of the Marion Superior Court on November 5, 1996. She served as Presiding Judge of Marion Superior Court, Criminal Division One, from January 1, 1997 until December 31, 2008 and served as presiding Judge of the Marion Superior Court, Probate Division from January 1, 2009 until June 25, 2010.

Prior to her election as judge, Judge Pratt was a partner in the Indianapolis law firm of Walton & Pratt, where she practiced in the areas of family law, personal injury, probate, and criminal law. From 1994 to 1996, she served as a Master Commissioner in the Marion Superior Court, and was a Public Defender in Marion County Superior Court, Criminal Division for five years. She attends St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, and is a former Chair of the St. Joan of Arc of the School Commission.

Judge Pratt is the immediate past secretary of the Indiana State Bar Association, a life member and past board member of the Marion County Bar Association, a past vice-president of the Indianapolis Bar Association and past member of the Board of Managers of the Indiana Judges Association. She is an Advisory Board Member of the United Negro College Fund, a board member of Cathedral High School, a member of the Indianapolis American Inn of Court (Master), chair of the Indianapolis Bar Association Professionalism Committee and a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., having pledged at Eta Kappa Chapter, Spelman College.

Judge Pratt was appointed chair of the Indiana Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Holiday Commission by the late Governor Frank O'Bannon, and served in that capacity from May 21, 2001, until July 1, 2007. She served as a member of the Marion Superior Courts' Executive Committee for four years and was the supervising judge of the Marion County Juvenile Detention Center. She is a 2002 Graduate of the Indiana Graduate Program for Judges and served on the Judicial Administration Committee and the Probate Committee of the Judicial Conference of Indiana. In 2002 she received the Outstanding Judge of the Year Award from the Indiana Coalition Against Sexual Assault, Inc. and was presented a 2006 Career Achievement Award by the Indianapolis Archdiocese and a 2007 Career Achievement Award from Cathedral Alumni Association. Last year Judge Pratt was awarded A Breakthrough Woman award from the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Indianapolis Chapter; the Delta Sigma Theta, Midwest Region Social Activist of the Year Award, a UNCF 2010 Shining Star Award, a 2010 Indiana Women of Achievement Award from Ball State University and received a 2010 Woman of Influence Award from the Indianapolis Business Journal and the Rosa Parks Award from the Indiana Minority Business Magazine. She recently received the 2011 Spirit of Justice Award from the Indiana Civil Rights Commission and the State of Indiana.

On January 20, 2010 President Barack Obama nominated Judge Pratt to serve on the United States District Court, Southern District of Indiana. She was voted to the floor by the Senate Judiciary Committee on February 11, 2010 and confirmed unanimously by the United States Senate (95-0) on June 15, 2010.

Judge Pratt is married to Attorney Marcel Pratt and they are the proud parents of one daughter, Lena.