



Lawrence M. Lawson

Of Counsel

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LAWRENCE M. LAWSON received his undergraduate degree from Bowie State University and his J.D. from the Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law. He also attended Norwich University Military College. After law school, Judge Lawson served as Judicial Law Clerk to the Honorable Thomas L. Yaccarino, J.S.C.

Judge Lawson engaged in private practice for several years, during which time he served as the Municipal Prosecutor, City of Asbury Park from 1981 to 1986, and Mayor of Neptune Township from 1984 to 1986.

He was appointed as a Superior Court Judge of Monmouth County in 1987 and was assigned to the Civil Division. Shortly thereafter, in March he was assigned to the Criminal Division and in September of that year he was designated as the Presiding Judge of the Criminal Division. In 1990, Judge Lawson returned to the Civil Division as a trial judge until 1992 when he again returned to the Criminal Division. He served as a trial judge in that division until April of 1993 when he was appointed as the first African American judge to become the Assignment Judge of the Monmouth Vicinage and of the State of New Jersey. He remained as Assignment Judge until he retired on September 1, 2014.

Judge Lawson will focus his practice on Mediation and Arbitration matters.

Education

- Catholic University Of America, Columbus School of Law (J.D. 1972)
- Bowie State University (B.A. 1969)
- (attended Norwich University Military College 1965-1966)

Admissions

- State of New Jersey
- Supreme Court of The United States
- U.S. Court of Appeals, 3rd Circuit
- U.S. District Court, District of NJ

Memberships & Associations

Legal

- American Bar Association
- Former Chair and Member, Supreme Court Committee on Judicial Employee Outside Activities
- Former Chair and Vice Chair, Supreme Court Criminal Practice Committee
- Former Chair, Supreme Court Committee on Judicial Libraries
- Former Member, Judicial Reappointment Process Committee
- Former Member, Supreme Court Committee on Judicial Information Systems Policy
- Former Member, Supreme Court Sentencing Committee
- Former Member, Supreme Court Subcommittee on Standards, Revision Part III of the Criminal Practice Rules of Court
- Former Statewide Coordinator, appointed by the Chief Justice, Megan's Law
- Former Vice Chair, Judiciary Budget and Planning Committee
- Garden State Bar Association
- Member, Monmouth Bar Association
- Member, Special Committee on Attorney Ethics and Admissions
- Member, Supreme Court Committee on Evidence
- Member, Supreme Court Committee on Minority Concerns
- Member, Supreme Court Joint Committee on Criminal Justice
- Member, Supreme Court Standards for Comprehensive Enforcement Program Committee
- New Jersey State Bar Association
- The Community Advisory Board of the Two River Community Bank

Representative Cases

REPORTED DECISIONS:

Reported Decisions where Judge Lawson was Counsel:

- Cuccurullo v. Meskin, 204 N.J. Super. 386 (Law Div. 1985) overruled by Gerzsenyi v. Richardson, 211 N.J. Super. 213 (App. Div. 1986)
Auto arb. de novo motion
- Petition of Battle, 190 N.J. Super. 232 (App. Div. 1983) aff'd as modified, 96 N.J. 63 (1984)
Election law
- Borough of Belmar v. Buckley, 187 N.J. Super. 107 (App. Div. 1982)
Indecent exposure municipal ordinance violation
- Matter of Bennett, 180 N.J. Super. 406 (Ch. Div. 1981)
Incompetency

Judge Lawson's reported decisions as a Judge:

- Bd. of Fire Comm'rs, Fire Dist. No. 1, Twp. of Millstone v. Cascella, 326 N.J. Super. 142 (Law Div. 1998) aff'd sub nom., 326 N.J. Super. 83 (App. Div. 1999)
Condemnation

State v. Bram, 246 N.J. Super. 200 (Law Div. 1990)

Criminal

In re N.N., 407 N.J. Super. 30 (Law Div. 2009)

Megan's Law

Stewart v. Planning Bd. of Twp. of Manalapan, 334 N.J. Super. 123 (Law Div. 1999)

PW

Benjamin R. Harvey Co. v. Bd. of Educ., Spring Lake Heights Sch. Dist., 358 N.J. Super. 383, (Law Div. 2002)

OSC Public Bidding

Eltrym Euneva, LLC v. Keansburg Planning Bd. of Adjustment, 407 N.J. Super. 432 (Law Div. 2008)

PW

In re Monday Grand Jury Panel of Monmouth Cnty. Vicinage 9, 405 N.J. Super. 88 (Law Div. 2008)

Grand Jury

Awards & Recognitions

- Roger M. Yancey Award for Outstanding Achievement as a Jurist from the Garden State Bar Association
 - Two time recipient
- Pioneer of Justice, Monmouth Vicinage
- Asbury Park/Neptune NAACP Hall of Fame
- Recognition of Years of Standing for Freedom and Fighting for the Future
- Monmouth Boy's and Girl's Club Hall of Fame
- Omega Psi Phi Fraternity - Man of the Year
- Neptune Township Board of Education Hall of Fame
- Distinguished Service Award - NJ ICLE

Seminars

Judge Lawson has been a longtime lecturer for NJICLE, the Hayden Proctor Inns of Court, and for the Monmouth Bar Association's Young Lawyer's Program. Judge Lawson speaks yearly at the Criminal Law Institute, which is sponsored by ICLE. Judge Lawson also participates as a panel member at the New Jersey State Bar Association's annual Criminal Practice Committee seminar and is a panel participant at the New Jersey League of Municipalities Convention.