



Judge Karelia Rachelle Stewart is a judge for the First Judicial District Court, Caddo Parish in Shreveport, Louisiana. Judge Stewart is currently serving in the Family Court Division. She presides over a wide range of domestic cases and she rotates handling the mental health dockets at four of the local hospitals. She is the youngest female to take the bench at age 35, the second African American female elected to the court, and the first-ever second generation to be elected to the court. She was elected to same seat previously held by her father and her uncle also served on this court.

Prior to her judicial career, Judge Stewart served as a prosecutor with the Caddo Parish District Attorney's Office and also maintained a small civil practice. At the time of her departure, she was Section Chief of the Drug Division and was very instrumental in reviving the rehabilitation program of Drug Court and Implementing a Veterans Court.

Judge Stewart is actively involved in her community and her favorite work is with the Judges in the Classroom program where she is partnered each school year with a local middle or high school class. She is able to focus on a curriculum with the students in the area of civics or law related instruction. Judge Stewart also hosts in the fall "Chat and Chew with the Court" a mentoring program for new young lawyers after they have passed the bar. She serves as the judicial liaison to the Shreveport Bar Association and she is an active member of the Louisiana Judicial Council Foundation/NBA Inc., National Bar Associations Judicial Council, National Association of Women Judges, American Judges Association and a master of the Bench in the Harry V. Booth and Judge Henry A. Politz American Inns of Court Chapter. She also serves as adjunct professor at Louisiana State University in Shreveport, where she teaches Real Estate Law.

Judge Karelia R. Stewart has received numerous accolades and awards for her contributions to the profession. She was selected by her colleagues and peers to receive the Louisiana State Bar Association's Young Lawyer's Sections Honorable Michaelle Pitard Wynne Professionalism Award and a Shreveport Community Award, The Harry Blake Trailblazer Award. Additionally, Judge Stewart was honored by the National Bar Association as a recipient of the Nation's 40 under 40 Best Advocates and the Excellence in Leadership Award. She was most recently honored with the National Bar Association Women Lawyers Division 2019 Excellence in the Judiciary Award.

Judge Stewart is an honor graduate of both Dillard University and Loyola University New Orleans School of Law.