

Speaker Biography



Judge D. Nicole Sheppard was elected as an Orleans Parish Civil District Court Judge in November of 2017. She is a graduate of Southern University at New Orleans and the Southern University Law Center in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. She is a wife and a mother. Judge Sheppard currently serves as a board member with the National Bar Association Judicial Council and is a member of the Board of Trustees for the American Judges Association. She also teaches multiple Continuing Legal Education seminars yearly. Judge Sheppard also owned the Sheppard Williams Law Firm, founded in 2005. She was of-counsel to two law firms and represented a large number of Louisiana major retailers in civil matters. Judge Sheppard was admitted to practice in all state, municipal and traffic courts in Louisiana and had the rare opportunity of being admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court in Washington D.C.

She currently teaches at Dillard University and has taught at Southern University at New Orleans, Delgado Community College, and the Southern University Law Center.

In addition to presiding over cases full time, Judge Sheppard has dedicated most of her life to serving the public, advancement of public education and the improvement of our social justice system. She engages our youth in various capacities and works with our youth throughout the year. Over the last fifteen years, she has broadened the scope of her community service efforts by coordinating criminal justice events and domestic violence conferences every year. She also developed the first Traffic Court Warrant Amnesty Day in New Orleans which benefited more than 1,100 citizens and established the first HIV/AIDS Clergy Testing Day. Prior to being elected, she produced three local television talk shows and was a contributing local radio host. *Real Life* television show presents local and national leaders, community activists, athletes, and visiting and local celebrities. *Traffic Time* and *Real Life: Law Edition* give citizens a better understanding of our legal system. Her nearly thirty-year commitment to providing public education through television and radio programming evidences her unflinching pledge to the people of the Greater New Orleans area.

Her resounding message to our community is that "we must be efficient, effective and aggressive to combat the plague of crime and abuse that riddles our neighborhoods." Her research centers on the adverse impact of Strain Theory and disorganization in our communities as major causes for crime.

Judge Sheppard has also been published as a contributor in several books. She has received numerous awards and honors and has also been a featured speaker at several conferences and events. However, despite it all, she is most thankful for her relationship with GOD, her family—and her mother, the late Celesia Perry Ferrand.