

Court of Special Appeals Welcomes Judge Adkins

The Honorable Sally D. Adkins joins the Court of Special Appeals and makes history for the second time in her judicial career as the first Eastern Shore woman to be appointed to that court. Judge Adkins fills the vacancy created by the elevation of Judge Dale R. Cathell to the Court of Appeals in January. "Judge Adkins distinguished herself as an outstanding jurist and enjoys an excellent reputation," says Gov. Parris Glendening in making the appointment. "Her commitment to justice is unparalleled, she is extremely hardworking and knowledgeable and exceedingly fair."

Judge Adkins first made history in 1996 as the first woman to be appointed to a circuit court judgeship anywhere on the Eastern Shore when she became an associate judge of the Wicomico County Circuit Court. Prior to becoming a judge, the 1975 graduate of the University of Maryland School of Law began private law practice in 1976 with the law firm of Adkins, Potts & Smethurst, LLP, where she became a partner in 1982. In 1995, she formed the firm of Adkins & Allen LLP involving civil litigation, administrative proceedings, corporate and business law, domestic, and estate planning.

A member of the American Bar Association, Maryland State Bar Association, Women's Bar Association, and Wicomico County Bar Association, Judge Adkins is a past president of the Women's Bar

Association's Eastern Shore Chapter and Wicomico Bar Association. She has also served for ten years on the Maryland State Bar Association's Committee on Laws and for three years on its Committee on Judicial Personnel Issues.



Judge Adkins is a past member of the Trial Court Nominating Commission for the First Judicial Circuit (1983-1990). Her community activities include serving as a director and legal counsel for the Mid-Delmarva Family Y.M.C.A., Inc., (1981-1991), director and secretary of O.U.R. Community Inc., (1995-1998), director of Coastal Hospice, Inc., (1980 to 1988), and member and officer of Greater Salisbury Committee, Inc., (1990-1997).

In 1996, Judge Adkins initiated and developed a child custody mediation program for Wicomico County. She reviews all cases where child custody or visitation is at issue, to determine whether to refer to mediation.

Judge Adkins plans to bring her views and acquired convictions of the Eastern Shore with her to the court. "I look forward to relying upon my heart and my understanding of people, as well as my powers of reasoning as I review from a different vantage point the judgments about people made by my brethren on the trial court."