

The Honorable Karen Smith Woodson

Magistrate Judge, Retired

Fulton County Superior Court, Georgia



Karen Smith Woodson is a member of the Georgia, Pennsylvania and District of Columbia Bar Associations. She completed her Bachelor of Arts degree in Government and, in 1976, received her Juris Doctor from Howard University School of Law in Washington, D.C.

After a brief period as a sole practitioner, she opened the Law Offices of Woodson & Woodson, P.C., in Washington, D.C., in 1979, as Principal and Senior Partner. The firm focused on general civil and domestic trial and appellate litigation, state and federal administrative proceedings, and telephone and electric utility regulation, in the Washington, D.C. area.

In 1982, she was appointed by the Mayor to the District of Columbia Board of Appeals and Review, which considered appeals from determinations made by departmental officials of the District of Columbia.

She returned to her home in Atlanta, in 1984, and embarked upon a sole practice. The scope of her practice therein was in the area of civil litigation, with emphasis on personal injury, medical malpractice, domestic relations, employment discrimination, wills and estates and contracts.

Judge Woodson's first judicial appointment was in 1988 by the Mayor and City Council of the City of East Point, Georgia. She served as a Municipal Court Judge for the City of East Point until 1990.

In 1998, she was appointed by the Superior Court to the first group of Judicial Officers/ Magistrate Judges to be assigned to the then-premiere, pilot program of the Fulton County Family Division. This Court was specifically designated to address domestic and family-related cases and issues. While serving in that capacity, Judge Woodson presided over criminal and civil calendars for the Fulton County Superior, State and Magistrate Courts.

In 2005, Judge Woodson was appointed as a full-time Magistrate Judge, sitting by designation in the Fulton County Superior Court. She retired from the bench in 2019. ■