



**United States District Court  
District of Minnesota**

Patrick J. Schiltz, Chief Judge  
Kate M. Fogarty, Clerk of Court  
612-664-5080

Warren E. Burger  
Federal Building and U.S.  
Courthouse  
316 North Robert Street  
St. Paul, MN 55101

Edward J. Devitt  
U.S. Courthouse and  
Federal Building  
118 South Mill Street  
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

Gerald W. Heaney  
Federal Building and U.S.  
Courthouse and  
Customhouse  
515 West First Street  
Duluth, MN 55802

Diana E. Murphy  
U.S. Courthouse  
300 South Fourth Street  
Minneapolis, MN 55415

November 30, 2023

**NEWS RELEASE**

**United States District Court, District of Minnesota  
Retirement of Hon. Wilhelmina M. Wright**

St. Paul, MN – The United States District Court for the District of Minnesota announced today that U.S. District Judge Wilhelmina Wright has informed President Biden that she intends to retire from her position effective February 15, 2024. Judge Wright released the following statement:

“I have so appreciated my tenure as a federal trial judge since my appointment by President Obama. The work has been challenging and rewarding. I have enjoyed working closely with my terrific staff and my dedicated colleagues. Ensuring justice for all has been the goal of my career and I have worked every day for justice in this remarkable job. Now, after a long career in public service, I have decided that the time is right to focus on other ways to serve. My husband has retired, and I am also looking forward to spending more time with him and with our daughter.”

Judge Wright was appointed by President Obama in 2016 and is the first Black woman to be appointed to the federal court in Minnesota. Prior to that appointment, she served as a state district court judge, an appellate court judge and as a justice on the Minnesota Supreme Court. Governor Jesse Ventura appointed Judge Wright to Ramsey County district court in 2000, and to the Minnesota Court of Appeals in 2002; in 2012, Governor Mark Dayton’s appointment made Wright the first Black woman to serve on Minnesota’s Supreme Court. She is a native of Norfolk, Virginia and a graduate of Harvard Law School. Following law school, she clerked for the legendary Court of Appeals Judge Damon Keith in Michigan, worked for an international law firm in Washington, D.C., and served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in Minnesota.

Minnesota Supreme Court Chief Justice Natalie Hudson released the following statement:

“Judge Wright is a remarkable public servant and a brilliant jurist. Her exemplary service to the Minnesota judicial system will not soon be matched. I was privileged to serve with Judge Wright for over ten years on the Minnesota Court of Appeals and briefly on the Supreme Court. The work of both courts was buoyed by her keen intellect, integrity, common sense, and grace.”

United States Senior District Judge Michael J. Davis commented:



“Judge Mimi Wright is an outstanding member of United States District Court of Minnesota. Judge Wright has handled some of the most complex civil and criminal trials in our district. She is a compassionate and brilliant jurist. I am so proud to be a friend and colleague of Judge Wright.”

Former Minnesota Supreme Court Justice David Lillehaug added:

“In 1995, I had the easiest decision of my career: whether to hire Mimi Wright as an Assistant U.S. Attorney before anyone else could snap her up. I watched with awe as she surmounted all barriers to serve with distinction in an unprecedented four judicial offices. In Judge Wright, intelligence, integrity, and grace come together.”

Additional questions can be directed to Public Information Officer Rebeccah Parks at [Rebeccah\\_Parks@mnd.uscourts.gov](mailto:Rebeccah_Parks@mnd.uscourts.gov).

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