

Curtis L. Collier

Curtis Lynn Collier is a United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Tennessee residing in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Judge Collier is the first African-American to serve as a federal judge in the Eastern District of Tennessee and the second African-American federal judge to serve in the state of Tennessee. On October 7, 2005, Judge Collier became Chief Judge of the District Court and completed his seven-year term in 2012.

A native of Marianna, Arkansas, Judge Collier is one of nine children born to his parents. Judge Collier attended Tennessee State University where he majored in Chemistry. While at Tennessee State University he was inducted into Beta Kappa Chi Scientific Honor Society and Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society. He was also initiated into the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. He was a member of the United States Air Force Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) unit at Tennessee State and was commissioned as an Air Force officer upon his graduation in 1971.

Following his graduation from Tennessee State, Judge Collier attended the Duke University School of Law in Durham, North Carolina and graduated with his Juris Doctor's degree in 1974. Honoring his commitment to serve in the Air Force, Judge Collier entered active duty after his graduation from Duke and served in the Air Force Judge Advocate General's Department as an Assistant Staff Judge Advocate with the rank of Captain.

Judge Collier is the recipient of numerous awards for leadership, community involvement, and legal accomplishments including receiving the 2015 American Inns of Court Professionalism Award; receiving the "Omega Century Award of Excellence" from the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., in recognition of being one of the most significant members of Omega Psi Phi in its first 100 years; receiving the NAACP Chattanooga Chapter Thurgood Marshall Award; receiving the Whitney M. Young Award, Urban League of Greater Chattanooga; induction into the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Chattanooga Alumnae Chapter African American Achievers Hall of Fame; being a 2010 inductee into the National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame; receiving a 2009 National Association for Equal Opportunity (NAFEO) Distinguished Alumni Award; and being awarded the Charles S. Murphy Public Service Award from Duke University Law School.

He serves on the Board of Directors of the Chattanooga Area Urban League. He has formerly served on the Boards of the Federal Judicial Center, Children's Advocacy Center of Hamilton County, the Siskin Foundation, 100 Black Men of Chattanooga, Moccasin Bend Girl Scouts Council, Friends of Moccasin Bend National Park, and the AIM Center of Hamilton County. He sits on the Board of Trustees at his church, Second Missionary Baptist Church.

Judge Collier is married to the former Cheryl Elaine Hollingshed. They are the parents of three children and have two grandchildren. Judge Collier is a passionate follower and supporter of Tennessee State University football and Duke University basketball. He is an avid reader and enjoys biography, history, national affairs, current events, and fiction.

One of Judge Collier's most interesting experiences was administering the oath of office to former United States Secretary of Transportation Rodney Slater in the Oval Office at the White House before President Clinton in February 1997.