

## HONORABLE TANYA R. KENNEDY



The Honorable Tanya R. Kennedy is a Supreme Court Justice and former Supervising Judge of Civil Court, New York County. Upon her election to Civil Court in 2005, Justice Kennedy has presided in the Criminal and Civil Courts of the City of New York, as well as the Family and Supreme Courts of the State of New York. Since 2006, she has taught a juvenile justice seminar course as an Adjunct Professor at Fordham University School of Law.

Prior to joining the judiciary, Justice Kennedy served as Principal Law Clerk to former Associate Justice Barry A. Cozier in the Appellate Division, Second Judicial Department. She also served as Principal Law Clerk to Justice Cozier in the Commercial Division of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, New York County. Justice Kennedy commenced her legal career at the New York City Law Department, Office of the Corporation Counsel, where she worked in both the Bronx Family Court and Bronx Tort Divisions and was promoted to Deputy Assistant Chief while assigned to the Tort Division.

She is a member of various bar and judicial organizations, including the New York State Bar Association and the Metropolitan Black Bar Association, where she is a board member. She is the Treasurer of the National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ) and former Finance Committee Chair, Vice President of Publications, Vice President of Districts, Secretary and New Judges' Committee Chair of NAWJ.

Justice Kennedy received her law degree from Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law in 1992. Since 2002, she has been a member of Cardozo's Alumni Association Executive Committee, where she served as Corresponding Secretary and Activities Committee Chair. She is also a member of Cardozo's Black Asian Latino Law Student Alumni Association (BALLSA); the Dean's Council on Public Service and Dean's Advisory Council. Justice Kennedy has mentored Cardozo students and participated in student-organized panels. She also served as an instructor for Cardozo's Intensive Trial Advocacy Program in the winter 2012 and 2013 sessions and as key note speaker at the 2013 Student Orientation, as well as addressed law students at Cardozo's multi-cultural Alumni-Student reception.

As an individual who is committed to the pursuit of higher education, Justice Kennedy serves as a mentor and visits various churches, schools and other institutions as a youth motivational speaker. Her greatest pride and joy is the speakers' bureau she founded in October 2011 targeting at-risk youth where she invites guests to discuss their past mistakes and difficult life stories, as well as to provide advice to the youngsters on how to avoid the same pitfalls that the guests previously encountered in their young lives.

Justice Kennedy also promotes the advancement and empowerment of women through her membership in the New York Coalition of 100 Black Women and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Tau Omega Chapter. In addition, Justice Kennedy is a life member and board member of the NAACP Mid-Manhattan Branch, and is a member of the Abyssinian Baptist Church.

Her numerous honors include the Council for Unity's 2006 Peace Maker Award for "promoting achievement in schools and communities;" the 2007 Children's Inspiration Award from The Children's Storefront; the 2009 Leadership Award from West Harlem Group Assistance, Inc.; the 2010 Award from the BALLSA Alumni Group of Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law for her dedication to the school; the NAACP New York City Housing Authority Branch 2011 Distinguished Leadership Award; the 2012 Pat Irvin Personal Service Award from the Association of Black Women Attorneys; the Brooklyn Technical High School Alumni Foundation 2013 Distinguished Alumni Award; the New York Coalition of 100 Black Women 2013 Beacon Award; the 2014 Award from the New York County Lawyers' Association Civil Court Practice Section; the 2014 NAACP Mid-Manhattan Branch Outstanding Community Service Award; the 2015 Salarie Kee Activism Award from the Harlem Hospital Center Community Advisory Board; and the 2015 Alumni of the Year Award from Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law.