

**September 10, 2024**

## **Judge Sims Becomes Chief Judge of Shreveport City Court**



*Shreveport, La. -- Shreveport City Court honored Judge Sheva Sims in an investiture ceremony Wednesday, January 4, 2024, as she took on the role of chief judge of the court.*

Chief Judge Sheva M. Sims, a life-long resident of Shreveport, Louisiana, was elected Judge on November 19, 2011, for Shreveport City Court, Division D. She was re-elected to the Shreveport City Court bench in November 2014 and re-elected without opposition in November 2020.

Because of Chief Judge Sims' unwavering focus to improve the community's understanding of the judicial system, she has been nationally and locally recognized for her public service efforts. While serving as the National Association of Women Judges (2017-2019), Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson selected Chief Judge Sims to spearhead the Women in Prison Initiative in north Louisiana. While serving as the District 6 Director of the National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ) from 2017-2019, Chief Judge Sims worked hard for the implementation of the historic cosmetology program at the Louisiana Transitional Center for Women in Tallulah (LTCW), LA.

She also collaborated with Bossier Parish Community College to initiate skills and educational reentry programs for incarcerated women at the Louisiana Transitional Center for Women in Tallulah.

Chief Judge Sims has inspired other community organizations and businesses to assist with the collection of books, toiletries and dental hygiene products in support of the Women in Prison Initiative. To date, over sixty (60) boxes of books, toiletries and dental hygiene products have been donated to the women incarcerated at the Louisiana Transitional Center for Women.

She is the first judge in Shreveport to convene neighborhood informational seminars entitled “Know Your Legal Rights,” in an effort to educate and inform members of the community of their legal rights. Chief Judge Sims has been a frequent speaker throughout Shreveport at various schools for graduations, honor convocations and events such as the Judges/Lawyers in the Classroom, a program implemented by The Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education (LCLCE).

In 2012, Chief Judge Sims was selected by the Louisiana Supreme Court to participate in the Louisiana Judicial Leadership Institute, a program designed to recognize and train future leaders in the judiciary. In 2015, Chief Judge Sims’ portrait was added to the Southern University Law Center’s “Wall of Fame” for her level of excellence and outstanding achievements in the legal profession. In 2022, Judson Elementary School honored Chief Judge Sims by awarding deserving students “The Sheva Sims Outstanding Leadership Award.”

Chief Judge Sims has received the following awards:

- Congressman Troy A. Carter, Sr. Network Coalition Honoree (2023)
- Mary Springhill AME Church Celebration of Women’s History Month Award (2023)
- Louisiana Housing Counsel Appreciation Award (2023)
- Network Coalition Honoree (2023)
- Louisiana Leading Lady Judges (2023)
- Power of Influence Awards (2023)

- American Judges Association Member Spotlight (2022)
- American Judges Association President’s Award (2022)
- Mattie Brewer-McCulloch’s 50 over 50 (2022)
- The Judicial Council of the NBA Judge Leon A. Higginbotham Award (2021)
- The Judicial Council of the NBA Member of the Year Award (2021)
- NBA Power of 50 Awards (2021-2022)
- Service and Leadership Recognition by the Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards (2019)
- The Power of Influence Woman of Inspiration Award (2018)
- Judge Benjamin Jones Judges in the Classroom Award (2017)
- HERA Award Nominee (2016)
- SUSLA Upward Bound North Trio Achiever Award (2015)
- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Civil Rights Award, Shreveport, LA (2014)
- David Raines Community Center Seminar of Excellence Award (2014)
- Louisiana State Bar Association Crystal Gavel Award (2013)
- Dr. Jesse N. Stone Pioneer Award (2013)
- NAACP City of Shreveport (2013)
- Women Motivating Women Award (2012)
- Gospel Music Living Legend Award (2011)
- SB Magazine Top Attorney (2009)
- Leah Hipple McKay Memorial Award Outstanding Volunteer (2009)

**Shreveport Mayor Tom Arceneaux presented her with a proclamation on January 4th, 2024, naming that day “*Chief Judge Sheva M. Sims Day.*”**

*“Sheva’s the people’s judge. Sheva’s going to take her time with you. She’s going to listen to your story and your claim,”* said Special Assistant District Attorney Wilbert Pryor. *“You ask anybody that watches court, there’s never been a judge, I believe, in Caddo Parish history with the patience and kindness to the poorest of the poor than Judge Sheva Sims.”*

Chief Judge Sims was deeply touched by the ceremony.

*“To all who participated in this program today, you mean the world to me. This day would not have happened without each of you,”* Chief Judge Sims said.

*“For those of you who truly know me and know my heart, my desire is to continue to be fair with all who come before me,”* she concluded.

**For more information:**

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