

Fulton in line for top judicial job

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missed on the bench," she said. "I think it is exciting that he has a chance to do some of the things he wants to do in life. I hope I am fortunate enough to be able to do some things I want to do in life."

Fulton, a native of Kingstree, S.C., said some current criticism of the court system is misdirected because of a lack of exposure.

She'd like to do more bridge the gap between the legal community and community at large.

"I want to be active in educating the public on the role of the court system," Fulton said. "I think people lambaste it because they don't understand the limitations of the court system. We are not the answer to all the problems and a lot of things are laid at our feet (when it shouldn't be).

"Some criticism is justified and I hope to address that," Fulton added.

Saunders praised Fulton last week. "Shirley Fulton is one of those truly outstanding human beings who is really rare in terms of her achievement," Saunders said. "She's a veteran of this court system and a person with a lot of spirit."

Gov. Jim Hunt will fill the

vacant judgeship when Saunders retires.

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It's spring, so Barry's campaigning

By Vanessa Williams
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON — Mayor Marion Barry spent the morning on Capitol Hill one day last week tussling with Republican leaders over a new proposal to guarantee jobs for D.C. residents, then dashed down to the D.C. Armory to spend a few minutes cuddling a large gathering of senior citizens.

"I came out here to tell you how much I love you, how much I care about you... You know I love you, don't you?" Barry cooed to about 4,000 residents who attended the D.C. government's annual senior citizens day program. "You all know you have a friend in Marion Barry, don't you?"

"Hey, how many of you all out there have grandchildren between the ages of 14 and 21 years old? Okay, remind them to register for our summer job program."

This is how Marion Barry stays in the game.

Though he continues to dismiss questions about whether he will seek reelection next year, in recent weeks Barry has devoted more time to activities that look suspiciously like he's running for a fifth term.

His back-to-back appearances last Thursday epitomized how Barry has used the mayor's office to protect his political turf — by appearing to stand up to those he casts as enemies of the District and cozy up to those he considers his loyal supporters.

Ron Walters, a political science professor at the University of Maryland, said Barry is doing what all good politicians do — keeping his political options open and, in

the meantime, "doing the kinds of things that will enhance him to take advantage of whatever opportunity presents itself" between now and next year's mayoral election.

Barry, in an interview last week, again insisted that he has not given much thought to whether he will run again or retire next year.

"My focus is on managing the government... trying to make the government more efficient, more effective and more dependable," he said.

As for his sudden burst of activity, the mayor attributes it partly to the new spring season, which has brought with it neighborhood cleanup efforts, school graduations, outdoor festivals and similar events that beg for the District's top elected official to show up and say a few words.

During the last two weeks, Barry has been more visible in neighborhoods around the city: He has met twice with Georgetown residents over parking and housing disputes with university students; walked with residents along the drug-plagued streets of Bloomingdale, a working-class neighborhood in Northwest Washington; and attended a meeting with Latino community leaders.

Two weekends ago, his Saturday schedule included events in each of the District's eight wards.

"I'm an activist kind of mayor," Barry said in the inter-

view. "I'm not one to just sit up in the office all day.

"I'm doing my job... doing the best I can to run this government."

Barry's potential rivals suspect otherwise.

"He is running," said D.C. Council member Harold Brazil, who himself is thinking about running for mayor. "It's very clear to me and has been for over two years. He's been consolidating his power and getting himself in good position to run and force out the competition."

Council member Kevin P. Chavous has said he will decide this summer whether he will run for mayor. He, too, acknowledges it will take some work to break Barry's stronghold on the political psyche of a large segment of District voters.

"I think what's going to have to happen over the next 18 months is those of us who feel we may be alternatives [to Barry] have to find a way to educate the voters," Chavous said. "And that is sometimes easier said than done."

Indeed, how does one compete with Barry's closing act at last week's senior citizens luncheon?

"Anybody out there 100 years or older?" he asked. One woman in the audience raised her hand. She was 101 years old. Barry reached in his pocket and peeled off \$101 in cash. "And that's my money! That's not D.C. government money, that money — that I worked for!"

"God bless all of you... and remember, you've got the best friend you ever want to have in Marion Barry."



Barry

Fly on the wall

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edy back. Maybe not...

• Speakin' of movin', gospel great Daryl Coley has copped new digs in southeast Charlotte. Coley, who moved here from the Windy City (those winters can be a bear) lives in a neighborhood not far from another inspirational giant, John P. Kee. Put those two sets of pipes together, and you've got a sho'nuff throw down on the gospel tip.

• The preacher's wife? WPEG morning news maven Shelia Stewart is all geeked up over her new beau, who happens to be a minister. Now, Fly hasn't seen Mr. Right, but after hearing Shelia talk about him, homeboy must be something on a stick. Could wedding bells be in the future? Remember kids, keep it wholesome. Before the good reverend became a man of God, he was a man.



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