

JUDGE GALLOWAY

Wants to Be A Role Model to Minorities

By Regina S. Craig
This week marks the first anniversary on the bench for Durham's first and only black woman judge.
Karen Betha Galloway was sworn in on January 18, 1980 as the first black female district court judge in North Carolina. She was appointed by Governor Jim Hunt on December 31, 1979. Miss Galloway, 31, from Raleigh, was picked for the seat from a field of six candidates. Her position was one of nine created across the state by the General Assembly.
Ms. Galloway is also one of three other women on District Court benches in the state. She is a 1971 graduate of East Carolina University, Greenville, with a degree in psychology, and received a Juris Doctor degree in 1976 from Duke University Law School in Durham.
The only lawyer in her immediate family, Ms. Galloway has one sister who works for a Raleigh television station and another who is a Durham minister as well as a speech and hearing therapist. Her mother teaches first grade in Raleigh.
Ms. Galloway's father, who died in 1976, was a mailman, head of his union and, she said, her

best friend. Since he participated in a lot of administrative hearings as a union representative, Ms. Galloway said they often discussed similar problems involving their cases. Her only regret is that he never got the opportunity to go to college as she did.
She granted the following interview eight months after her appointment in her Durham office in the County Judicial Building:
Q. What has been the happiest moment in your personal life?
A. I guess my happiest moment has been when I was sworn in as judge. There have been happier moments, but lately it has to be when I was sworn in as judge, not an attorney.
Q. Of all the things a woman can be, it seems like such a singular thing to be a judge. In your own words, who or what makes a good judge?
A. I don't think it has anything to do with sex. However, I think that you have to have a certain amount of intelligence, and a lot of patience, a commitment to work hard — very hard — to stay abreast of recent decisions, case decisions, of state and federal laws. One has to be a mild-mannered person, even-tempered, somebody who can listen to peoples' problems, and most impor-

tant, someone that is fair and consistent in judgements.
Q. Do you consider yourself a brave woman?
A. Yes, I guess so. I don't sit around and say, 'girl, you're a brave woman,' but I think that like so many other women, I am taking steps in areas where we have not ventured before. People have made it easier for me. In turn, I think that I'm making it easier for other women, but I guess to a certain extent I would say that I have to be a little brave in order to tackle it.
Q. When you say women, do you mean black or white women or just women in general?
A. Women in general, because when I speak of black women, that is a separate and special category. That would encompass not only black women, but black men, and steps that are taken as far as the race is concerned.
Q. What do you think about ERA? Who do you think it was created by, black or white? Who does it benefit?
A. I'm in favor of ERA. I think it would benefit everybody, black or white, male or female. I don't know if I can say that it was created by black people. I think that white females may have been the impetus behind the creation of ERA. I don't think that's important. I think what is important is who is it going to benefit and I think it benefits everybody.
Q. When you were a private attorney, what did you like best about it?
A. What I liked most was being in court, defending clients, and trial work. I liked the atmosphere of having to argue for your client, having to put on evidence to prove your case, and having to select people that would sit and listen to the evidence and all the strategies and techniques



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that make up a good trial lawyer. The actual preparation and the actual practice of law in the courtroom is what I like best.
Q. Speaking of preparation, Judge Galloway, you certainly got a lot of that during the Joan Little trial. (Joan Little was acquitted of murdering a Beaufort County jailer). What personal growth did you receive from defending Ms. Little, and did it help or hurt your career?
A. (Chuckles) I don't know if you know anything about how I became involved in her case, but I worked for the firm that I went into partnership with after I finished Law School. I clerked for them and they used to tease me and say that my first case would be a first degree murder case, to get my feet wet. The day that Joan Little turned herself

in was the day I received my bar exam results back. I had passed the bar! In essence, Little's trial was my first case. I learned very quickly what it was to be a trial lawyer, because I had the responsibilities and the pressures placed upon me. The publicity surrounding her case was nationally known. There were difficult times and there were frustrating times, but in balance, I gained a great deal of experience that year, and would not like to change that situation. It wasn't pleasant, but rewarding.
Q. Would you clarify that?
A. Yes, I had to deal with a multitude of personalities — people that were working with us on her case. We had seven other styles and techniques and strategies. Some worked on jury projects. I

am speaking of the ideologies, because everyone involved in her case had their own personal beliefs of what Joan's case meant to them. So, her case helped me to deal with a group of personalities.
Q. Do the credentials that you hold now make your decisions more difficult?
A. Let me clarify that in private practice you don't have to worry about judging anyone. That's not your job. Your job is defending. It was not a value judgement in what was going on. Inasmuch as you had to make a decision whether to represent a client, you would unconsciously weigh both sides in order to try to prepare your case so you had to deal with both sides. As a judge, you do it more. Your position as a judge is not to advocate, but as an impartial tribunal. The difficulty is that your role is completely different. Instead of advocating one side or the other, you are there to make the ultimate decision as to which side is to win or lose. Your whole line of thinking changes at that point. You have to bear in mind that you, as a district court judge in a criminal case, are judge and jury, because we don't have jury trials in criminal cases in district court. As a judge, you have to make a quick decision.
Q. In spite of the fact that you were forced to learn quickly in your involvement with the Joan Little trial, did those factors lead to your becoming the district judge of Durham?
A. I believe that my work experience was considered by the Governor in his appointment. It proved that I would be competent as a judge. I think that sure enough the experience on Joan's case laid the foundation of what type of practice I would have. It also helped to build my reputation.

deal with the situation very violently, a very unladylike manner. I rationalize with the situation now.
Q. What year was this?
A. It was the summer of 1967. The purpose of the group was to try to improve the conditions of the poor people in the community.
Q. Are you a strong believer of the Bible and does it affect your judicial decisions?
A. I was brought up in a very religious home. I'm not as religious as I guess I should be. I am a student of the Bible. But basic Christian doctrine I know, and it probably does affect many decisions that I make. I have to be careful of that because many times when you say, 'the Bible makes my decisions for me,' you run into a situation where your own moral judgements come into play. I don't think you should force your moral judgements upon people. I don't think it's fair. Your moral judgements could be incorrect. In making my judgements, I try not to place my moral judgements upon people, although they may have some effect. For example: People living together, in a custody situation, if I disagree — which personally I do — with people living together without the benefit of marriage. I may have a hard and fast rule whenever that happens, that a particular parent should have the children. That's not fair. It depends...
Q. I've read that you've described your father as a "frustrated lawyer". Would you define your statement?
A. My father was very bright. He did not have the educational opportunities that you and I have, as you find in so many cases. He was well read and very active in the community, in civic groups and church, as well. If he had had the opportunity to go to Law School, he would have. He would have made a dynamite lawyer! He was also the president of a union. In essence, he was a lawyer. As president of the postal union, he had a lot of negotiating to do; he had a lot of people to defend within the union. Because of the limited opportunities during his time for blacks, it was not easy to obtain a lot of things and he was frustrated. My father could never do all the things he wanted to do.
Q. One could easily have a model or someone they admire in your field. A lady by the name of Eireta Alexander comes to mind. She is noted for a number of firsts, one of which is the first black female judge elected in the United States.
A. I have never had the pleasure of meeting Judge Alexander, but she represents the people who have paved the way for me. The problems that she ran into are probably much more tremendous than the one's I am facing because she was appointed during the sixties. She is a person I admire and respect. She would be a model for me because she has held her position for years. I hope we will serve as models for minorities.



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Dr. Franklin To Give Mordecai Johnson Lecture

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Dr. John Hope Franklin, noted historian and author, will deliver the Fourth Annual Mordecai Wyatt Johnson Lecture, January 23 at 7 p.m., in the ballroom of the Armour J. Blackburn University Center.
Dr. Franklin is president of the American Historical Association and is the John Matthews Manly Distinguished Service Professor of History at the University of Chicago. In 1976, he was selected by the National Endowment for the Humanities to be the fifth Jefferson Lecturer in the Humanities. He was appointed by President Ford in same year to the National Council on the Humanities and in 1979 was appointed by President Carter to the Advisory Commission of the International Communications Agency.
A graduate of Fisk and Harvard Universities, Dr. Franklin is a foundation member of the Fisk University chapter of the Society of Phi Beta Kappa and is currently a member of the Senate of Phi Beta Kappa. He has lectured at many universities in this country and abroad, serving as professor at the Salzburg Seminar in the Humanities. He was ap-

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