



Supreme Court of Illinois

December 17, 2024

THIRD DISTRICT APPELLATE COURT JUSTICE MARY W. MCDADE RETIRING AFTER 24 YEARS

Third District Appellate Court Justice Mary W. McDade has announced her retirement after 24 years on the bench in the Third District Appellate Court, during which time she became the first Black woman to serve on the Illinois Appellate Court outside of Cook County. Her retirement is effective December 31, 2024.

Justice McDade was born in Columbia, South Carolina, in August 1939 and was raised in Ann Arbor, Michigan. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from the University of Michigan in 1961. For 18 years she worked primarily as the mother of her four children, Rebecca, William, Sarah, and Matthew. During that time, she was elected to the Peoria Board of Education, serving as president in 1972-73; was appointed to the Peoria Public Library Board, and was a member of the Board of Trustees of Eureka College, serving as chairman of the Board from 1980 to 1982. She worked actively in the areas of education, mental health, drug abuse, youth outreach, and civil rights.

In 1981, at the age of 41, she enrolled in the University of Illinois College of Law, earning her *Juris Doctor* in 1984. Justice McDade served as a law clerk for the Honorable Michael Mihm, United States District Judge for the Central District of Illinois from 1984-86. She joined the law firm of Quinn, Johnston, Henderson & Pretorius in Peoria in 1986, becoming a partner in the firm in 1991.

Justice McDade was first elected to the Third District Appellate Court in 2000 and won retention in 2010 and 2020.

She has been an active participant in programs and projects of the American, Illinois, and Peoria County Bar Associations and was named an Outstanding Alumnus of the University of Illinois College of Law in 2000.

(FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: James Brunner, Public Information Officer of the Illinois Supreme Court at 217.208.3354 or jbrunner@illinoiscourts.gov.)