

Personal Statement

Donald L. Graham
United States District Judge
Southern District of Florida
Miami and Fort Pierce, Florida

Donald L. Graham, a native of Salisbury, North Carolina, was appointed as a United States District Judge by President George H.W. Bush in 1991. Judge Graham graduated from West Virginia State University *magna cum laude* with a B.A. degree and served as President of The Student Body, and The Ohio State University College of Law with a J.D. degree, where he received a Best Oralist Award in the Moot Court Program and the Judge Harter Award as the Outstanding Trial Practice Student.

After joining the Judge Advocate General's Corps, United States Army with an initial active duty assignment in West Germany, he transferred to South Florida to serve as Assistant Staff Judge Advocate at Homestead Air Force Base, FL. Judge Graham was discharged from active duty in 1979 and retired from the United States Army Reserves in 1999 as a Lieutenant Colonel receiving several awards and commendations for his active and reserve duty. Judge Graham served as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida in Miami, Florida (1979-83), Chief of the Narcotics Unit and Chief of the Special Prosecutions Unit. He went into private practice where he was a founding partner with the law firm of Raskin & Graham, P.A., Miami, Florida (1983-91) engaged in criminal and civil trial practice in State and Federal courts throughout the United States.

He serves as an Adjunct Instructor in the United States Department of Justice Trial Advocacy Program, lecturer on behalf of the Department of Justice and Department of Commerce in Cebu and Manila, Philippines; in Shenyan, Hangzhou, Xiamen, and Shanghai, People's Republic of China; in Kathmandu, Nepal; in Kampala and Jinja, Uganda; and in Gaborone, Botswana. He has also served as a member of the United States Advisory Board on the Investigative Capacity of the Department of Defense. He is a faculty member for the Trial Advocacy Workshop at Harvard Law School, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Professional affiliations include the Ohio, New York and Florida Bars; Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and Sigma Pi Phi Grand Boule; National Bar Association; Federal Bar Association - South Florida Chapter, President (1985); Wilkie D. Ferguson, Jr. Bar Association; District Judges Association - Eleventh Circuit, President (2002-4); Council of Florida Bar Presidents.

Community activities include the 5000 Role Models of Excellence Project, Member of the Board of Directors of the Performing Arts Center for Greater Miami Trust, Member of The Orange Bowl Committee, Network Miami Magazine - Miami's 50 Most Influential Black Business Professionals and The Just The Beginning Foundation.

Judge Graham is the recipient of the 2009 William H. Hastie Award presented by the National Bar Association's Judicial Council, Juris Award for Judicial Efficiency, The Thurgood Marshall College Fund Award of Excellence, The M. Athalie Range Achievement and Excellence Award, The Wilkie D. Ferguson Bar Association Outstanding Jurist Award, and the 8th Annual William M. Hoeveler Award presented by The University of Miami School of Law's Center for Ethics and Public Service.