

# Second African-American woman seated as Circuit Court judge

**By James D. Williams**  
*Baltimore AFRO editor*

The Baltimore City Circuit Court recorded its second female African-American judge on Thursday afternoon, Jan. 18, when Bonita J. Dancy, who had been serving as a master in the Circuit Court Domestic Relations Division, was sworn into office.

Judge Dancy, a native Baltimorean who attended and graduated from Booker T. Washington Middle School and Douglass High School, was informed of her selection by Governor Parris Glendening on Dec. 15.

She will have to stand for

election to a full term in the March primary election, and again in the general election in November, but she is unopposed.

When asked her response to being named to the Circuit Court, Judge Dancy said it was one of "ectasy" and she thought it was "wonderful."

The only other African-American female serving on the bench is Judge Mable Houze Hubbard. The new jurist's first assignment will be to domestic court.

For the past 13 years, Judge Dancy has served as a master-in-chancery for the circuit court's

domestic division handling a broad variety of domestic issues.

Prior to this, Judge Dancy, 49, served as an attorney-advisor in the Office of General Counsel in the Social Security Administration; as an intern with the Division of Juvenile Causes, Supreme Bench of Baltimore City; an administrator with Northwest Baltimore Youth Services; family service supervisor and child welfare caseworker, Baltimore Department of Social Services.

Judge Dancy earned her undergraduate degree at Morgan State University; a master's in clinical social work at the

University of Maryland; and her law degree—cum laude—from the University of Maryland School of Law.

Judge Dancy has been active with a number of community organizations including the Baltimore Urban League where she is a past vice-president, the Monumental Bar Association, the National Bar Association, the Alliance of Black Women Attorneys, Douglas Memorial Community Church and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.