

Karen Wells Roby
U.S. Magistrate Judge
Eastern District of Louisiana
Biography



Judge Roby is a United States Magistrate Judge for the United States District for the Eastern District of Louisiana and has served on the court for sixteen (16) years. She is the Co-Chair of the ABA Litigation Sections, Diversity and Inclusion Committee. She is formerly Co-Chair of the Section’s Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee.

In July 2012 Judge Roby became the first African American Female to lead the Federal Magistrate Judges Association (“FMJA”) in its fifty plus year history. The FMJA is a national organization of over 600 U.S. Magistrate Judges across the country where she enhanced the organizations communications, ushered in a new web presence with historical information about the association and worked diligently to protect the interest of all magistrate judges through its pay litigation. She is currently serving her term as the immediate Past President of the Association.

Judge Roby is a frequent speaker on legal topics and she has had over one hundred speaking engagements throughout the United States during her career. She is also published in the areas of social media and ethics, settlement and ethics and attorney’s fees. She also serves as an Adjunct Professor at Tulane University Law School where she teaches a course on E-Discovery and Digital Evidence. She is also an Associate Professor of the law school’s Trial Advocacy Program a semester-long series of simulations in trial skills.

Judge Roby is active in the community and also supportive of the schools which she attended. Most recently Judge Roby was the Founder’s Day Convocation Speaker of her Alma Mater, Xavier University where she received a B.S. in Business Administration in 1983 and also Tulane Law School (B.S.’87) where she administered the Oath of Professionalism to its 1L’s during its professionalism assembly. In October of this year she joined other notable women from the law school and spoke on a panel entitled “Pioneering Women of Tulane Law”.

In August 2012, as a faculty member of Lawyers/Judges Without Borders, Judge Roby traveled to Nairobi, Kenya where she along with three federal judges and twenty lawyers brought United States best practices in the area of case management and trial procedure to magistrates, police prosecutors, and criminal defense counsel. In April 2013, Judge Roby served on a panel of national leaders which included retired U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor on the

topic of civic education. She also currently serves on the Louisiana Commission on Civics as the Louisiana Supreme Court's Designee.

Judge Roby is a member of New Home Ministries under the leadership of Pastor Samuel L.Blakes. She has been a member for 23years. She is married and the mother of two sons.