



HON. DENISE LANGFORD MORRIS (RET.)

Bio

Denise Langford Morris, Retired Judge, Oakland County Circuit Court, joined JAMS in Detroit in 2022 after serving on the Oakland County (Michigan) bench for 30 years. Judge Langford Morris was the first African American and the first female dean of the Oakland County bench since its inception in 1848. During her tenure on the bench, she presided over thousands of civil, business, family and criminal cases, including jury and bench trials. She managed every aspect of the cases assigned to her from filing to post judgment in a AAA-bond-rated county of over 1.2 million people. Judge Langford Morris retired as the first African American chief judge pro tempore to serve on the court.

Judge Langford Morris is a former assistant U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan, Civil Division, where she managed cases involving condemnation, premises liability, auto negligence, employment defense, wrongful discharge, fraud and Bivens actions. In addition, she has extensive trial practice as a private practitioner in the areas of insurance defense, municipal defense, products liability, construction accident defense, and premises liability. She also has extensive felony criminal trial experience as an assistant Oakland County prosecutor in all types of cases.

Judge Langford Morris is known at home and abroad for her dedication to the rule of law and for her ability to work with parties from all walks of life. She is adept at carving out mutually agreeable solutions to intractable problems and believes that mediated settlements offer parties the best chance at solving disputes. She is known for her patience, perseverance and integrity in seeking resolution while parties are still in control. Judge Langford Morris is active in many bar associations locally, nationally and internationally and is the present American Bar Association Chair-Elect of the National State Trial Judges Conference 2023-2024. “