

Yvette McGee Brown

A series of firsts defines the life and career of former Ohio Supreme Court Justice Yvette McGee Brown. A first-generation college graduate, McGee Brown was raised by a single mother on the East side of Columbus. She was the first African-American woman elected to the Franklin County Common Pleas Court in 1992. She resigned from the common pleas court in 2002, to create a nationally recognized organization that redefines how hospitals, law enforcement, and social welfare groups respond to children and families caught in the cycle of abuse. In January 2011, she became the first African-American woman to serve as a justice on the Supreme Court of Ohio. Today, McGee Brown is the Global Partner-in-Charge of Diversity, Inclusion, and Advancement at Jones Day and a partner in the business and tort litigation practice.

McGee Brown is an active community and corporate leader. She has served on the boards of the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, Ohio University, the OSU Wexner Medical Center, the National Council of the OSU Moritz College of Law, M/I Homes Inc., and Fifth Third Bank of Central Ohio. McGee Brown currently serves on the Board of Directors for Encova Mutual Insurance Group, The Jeffrey Company, and KIPP Columbus.

Among her many honors are the Ohio University Medal of Merit, The Ohio State University Distinguished Service Medal, the American Red Cross Humanitarian of the Year, Best Lawyers in America, Savoy Magazine's Most Influential Women in Corporate America, and 2024 Lawdragon Hall of Fame – 500 Leading Litigators in America.

McGee Brown has a bachelor's degree in journalism/public relations from Ohio University and a Juris Doctorate from The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law. She has honorary doctorate degrees from Ohio Dominican University, Urbana University, and Wilberforce University.

McGee Brown is married to Tony Brown, a retired educator. They have three children and two grandchildren.