

Angela R. Stokes

Angela Rochelle Stokes was born and raised in the greater Cleveland community and comes from a renowned family of public servants. She is the daughter of the late U.S. Congressman Louis Stokes and the niece of the late Carl B. Stokes, former U.S. Ambassador, Mayor of Cleveland and Judge of the Cleveland Municipal Court.

She graduated with honors from the University of Maryland, receiving her Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology. She received her Juris Doctorate from Howard University School of Law in Washington, D.C. and was admitted to the bar.

As an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Ohio, Stokes served from 1984 to 1990 and again from 1993 to 1995 in the Federal Litigation and Employment Services sections respectively. Prior to that, she was employed with BP America, Inc. in the corporate law department, where her areas of expertise included employment, labor, and benefits law.

She was elected to municipal court in 1995. During her tenure on the municipal bench she established Project HOPE (Holistic Opportunities and Preventative Education), a court program for prostitution offenders.

Virtually from the beginning, Stokes tenure on the court was marked with controversy. She was frequently accused of being devoid of appropriate judicial temperament. In 2011, her conduct ultimately resulted in a complaint containing over 200 allegations being filed against her with the office of the Disciplinary Council of the Ohio Supreme Court. Stokes contested the filing and the dispute dragged on for more than 4 years, costing the city over 1 million dollars in legal fees and costs. Following almost a year of hearings, a negotiated settlement resulted in Stokes' retirement from the court without any finding of wrongdoing but with her agreement not to seek or accept a judicial office in Ohio thereafter.

Angela R. Stokes served Cleveland Municipal Court from December 18, 1995 to January 6, 2016.

