

Stephanie Tubbs Jones

Stephanie Tubbs Jones established a number of “firsts” in her remarkable but regrettably short career. She was born in Cleveland and graduated from Collinwood High School in 1967. She completed her undergraduate work at Case Western Reserve University four years later, gaining a Bachelor degree in Sociology and her law degree from Case Western Reserve University Law School, passing the Ohio bar in 1974.

Her first experience as a lawyer was gained with the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District as Assistant General Counsel and Equal Employment Opportunity Administrator.

In 1976, she became a Cuyahoga County Assistant Prosecutor. Three years later, she was hired by the Federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission as a trial attorney.

Elected a municipal court judge in 1982, a year later she would become the first African American woman to serve as a Cuyahoga County Common Pleas judge.

In 1991, she became the first African American woman to serve as Cuyahoga County Prosecutor.

In 1998 she accomplished her greatest “first” when she became the first African American woman elected to Congress in Ohio. While serving in Congress, she held the prestigious chairs of both the Congressional Black Caucus and the House Ethics Committee.

She died suddenly of a brain aneurysm at the age of 58 in 2008.

Stephanie Tubbs Jones served Cleveland Municipal Court from January 3, 1982 to April 8, 1983.

