

Algenon Lamont Marbley

Doctor of Laws

Chief Judge Algenon L. Marbley '76 is a federal judge on the United States District Court for the Southern District of Ohio.

Upon recommendation from Sen. John Glenn, President Bill Clinton appointed Marbley to the bench in 1997. Marbley became the Chief District Judge for the Southern District of Ohio on Sept. 14, 2019, becoming the first African American to serve in that capacity.

In his 24 years serving as a district court judge, Marbley has presided over some of the most important cases in central Ohio and the country, deciding issues ranging from voting rights to policing. Before serving on the bench, Marbley was a partner with the law firm Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease, where he practiced civil, criminal and administrative law for 11 years.

Marbley, who received a bachelor's degree from Carolina and a doctor of law degree from Northwestern University, also remains active in the community. He was a member of the Board of Trustees of The Ohio State University and serves on the boards of the Knowledge Is Power Program School and the Nationwide Children's Hospital.

The Washington Post adopted one of his statements during a trial as its motto: "Democracy dies in darkness." Marbley is married and has two adult sons, one stepson and three granddaughters.