

Biography of Gary M. Jackson

Gary M. Jackson, a native of Colorado, grew up in Denver and graduated with honors from George Washington High School. He received an academic scholarship to the University of Redlands in California and earned his undergraduate degree and juris doctorate from the University of Colorado in Boulder.

He began his legal career as a deputy district attorney with the Denver District Attorney's Office in 1970. In 1974, he was assigned to the Civil Division of the United States Attorney's Office, District of Colorado, where he received a Special Commendation from U.S. Attorney Edward Levi and F.B.I. Director Clarence Kelley for his successful representation of the F.B.I. in a multi-million dollar civil suit.

In 1976, Gary entered private practice and became a partner in the law firm of DiManna, Eklund, Ciancio & Jackson. In 1982 Michael DiManna and Gary Jackson formed the law firm of DiManna & Jackson, a partnership that continued until Gary's appointment by Mayor Michael Hancock to the Denver County Court bench in January 2013. Leading up to his taking the bench, other legal achievements included appointment to the 18th Judicial District Judicial Performance Commission, the 2nd Judicial Nominating Commission, and the U.S. District Court's Nominating Commission for the selection of U.S. District Court judges and magistrates.

In 1971, Gary was one of the founders of the Sam Cary Bar Association, an organization dedicated to promoting professionalism and the exchange of ideas among African-American lawyers. He has had many roles within the organization including Treasurer and President; and in 2006 was honored with the King Trimble Life Time Achievement Award.

Numerous other community organizations have benefitted from Gary's leadership and involvement, including the Northeast Denver Youth Services, the Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble, and the Denver Urban League. With his participation in the Sam Cary Scholarship Endowment Fund and the Delta Eta Boule Foundation, these organizations have awarded deserving African American students nearly a \$500,000 dollars in scholarships.

Gary has generously shared his legal knowledge and experience through mentoring programs and instruction at colleges and law schools throughout Colorado. His active participation in the legal community has also meant serving on several boards including the Colorado Trial Lawyers Association, the American College of Trial Lawyers, and the American Board of Trial Advocates (of which he is the former President). Gary is currently the Co-Chair of the Colorado Bar Association/Colorado Judicial Institute Coalition on Judicial Diversity which has a four-year initiative to address the lack of diversity in the Colorado state judiciary.

With a celebrated legal career spanning five decades, Gary has been recognized with many accolades and awards including: Colorado Super Lawyer (2006-2012), the National Bar Association's Wiley Branton Award, the Colorado Bar Association's Award of Merit (2011), the William Lee Knous Award (2010), the Order of the Coif from CU Law School (2003), the CU George Norlin Award (2008), the National Black Prosecutor's Norman Early Lifetime Award, (2018), the George Washington High School Inaugural Hall of Fame (2016) and the National Bar Association Fred Grey Hall of Fame (2021)

The Honorable Judge Gary Jackson presided in the Criminal Division of Denver County Court from 2013 to 2020. In 2018 the Colorado Judicial Institute recognized Gary with its Judicial Excellence Award for County Court Judge of the year. Mayor Michael Hancock presented Gary with Monte Pascoe Civic Leadership Award in 2018. In 2019 Colorado Law Week in its annual Barrister's Magazine selected Gary as Trial Judge of the year. In 2020 the Center for Legal Inclusiveness awarded Gary the Hon. Wiley Daniel Lifetime Achievement Award. Also, In 2020 Colorado Law Week, the Denver Bar Association awarded Gary its Judicial Excellence Award. Also, the American Board of Trial Advocates awarded its Judicial Excellence Award to Judge Jackson who had served as the President of the Colorado Chapter in 2009. Lastly, at the Colorado Judicial Conference in 2020, Gary was awarded the Anthony Greco Judge of the Year for Colorado state county court judges.

Gary is semi-retired but in September 2021 passed the state and national real estate examinations and is now Vice President of Marketing for Action Jackson Realty.