

# Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with The Honorable Cynthia Baldwin

PERSON

Baldwin, Cynthia, 1945-

**Alternative Names:** The Honorable Cynthia Baldwin;

**Life Dates:** February 8, 1945-

**Place of Birth:** McKeesport, Pennsylvania, USA

**Residence:** White Oak, PA

**Occupations:** State Supreme Court Judge

## Biographical Note

Justice Cynthia Anita Ackron Baldwin was born on February 8, 1945, in McKeesport, Pennsylvania. She attended Penn State University, where she received her B.A. degree in English and her M.A. degree in American Literature. After starting her career as an English teacher and assistant dean of student affairs at Penn State's Greater Allegheny Campus, she pursued her J.D. degree at Duquesne University. She then worked in 1983 as the attorney-in-charge in the Office of the Attorney General at the Bureau of Consumer Protection under LeRoy S. Zimmerman.

In 1989, Baldwin was elected to the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas, where she served for sixteen years. Baldwin was a gubernatorial employee to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency in 1990 and traveled to Zimbabwe on a Fulbright Scholarship in 1994. She lectured at the University of Zimbabwe in Constitutional Law and Jurisprudence and helped research the constitutional issues that came before the Zimbabwe Supreme Court. In 1995, Baldwin was part of a team sponsored by the American Bar Association, the National Judicial Conference, and the D.C. Superior Court which conducted judicial education programs in Malawi, Tanzania and Uganda. She also traveled to mainland China to do judicial seminars with law professors, students and judges.

Baldwin became the first African American woman to sit on the State of Pennsylvania's Supreme Court when she was nominated by Governor Edward Rendell in 2005. Her term began in January, 2006, and she served on the high court for her two-year term, after which she transitioned to the law firm of Duane Morris, LLP. There, her focus is on appellate litigation and education issues. She is an active member of the Penn State Board of Trustees and is a member of many professional organizations including the Pennsylvania Bar Association and the Women's Bar Association. She is also the

recipient of several awards, including the 2003 Espirit Children's Service Award from the Mental Health Association of Allegheny County and the 2008 Greater Pittsburgh Area Athena Award for her success in the judiciary profession and international work.

## Related Entries

**Pennsylvania State University** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**BA**

**Pennsylvania State University** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**MA**

**Duquesne University** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**JD**

**Neighborhood Legal Services Association** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1980 to 1981]

**Office of the Attorney General at the Bureau of Consumer Protection** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1982 to ?]

**Attorney-In-Charge**

**Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1989 to 2005]

**Fulbright** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1990 to ?]

**Fellow**

**Supreme Court of Pennsylvania** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 2006 to 2008]

**Justice**

**Duane Morris** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 2008 to ?]

**Partner**