

PASSING THE TORCH: NEW MARSHAL INSTALLED AT ALABAMA SUPREME COURT

For more information, contact Julia J. Weller, Clerk of Court, at (334) 229-0700.

MONTGOMERY, ALA. – In a packed Courtroom at the Supreme Court of Alabama on Wednesday, February 12, 2020, a historic “passing of the torch” ceremony was held to swear-in the Thirteenth Marshal of the Appellate Courts of Alabama, **Earl Marsh, Jr.**, and to honor his beloved predecessor, **Willie L. James**, who retired January 1, 2020. James was appointed in 2001 as the first African-American Marshal of the appellate courts, and Marsh served as Chief Deputy Marshal since 2017.



New Marshal Earl Marsh, Jr.; Chief Justice Tom Parker; Retired Marshal Willie L. James (L-R)

Chief Justice Tom Parker welcomed Marsh’s recent promotion to Marshal: “Marshal Marsh has been a blessing to our whole building from when he first joined our Marshal’s Office in 2017. When our beloved Marshal Willie James retired at the first of this year, we turned to Marsh as the natural successor. Marsh brings the professionalism and dedication that we need for the essential duties of keeping the Heflin-Torbert Judicial Building safe and secure for our Courts, employees, and the public.”

Marshal Marsh was sworn in by Chief Justice Parker on January 27, but the Supreme Court of Alabama, members of the Court of Criminal Appeals and the Court of Civil Appeals, along with many friends and family of Marshal Marsh, and employees from throughout the Heflin-Torbert Judicial Building, gathered to witness the February 12 ceremony honoring both the new Marshal, Marsh, and the retired Marshal, James.

First, retired Marshal James was recognized by Senior Associate Justice Mike Bolin for his years of faithful and loyal service to the Courts and members of the judicial building, and for being “one of the best men I’ve ever known.” Marshal James, with many of his family members in attendance, was presented with two framed commendations -- one from the Supreme Court Justices and one from Governor Kay Ivey -- for his years of service in law enforcement, including his days with the Montgomery Police Department and his decades of service in the Marshal’s office.

Next, Marshal Marsh was sworn in with his wife Jennifer holding a Bible by his side. In brief remarks, Marsh thanked God, his family, and those in attendance for their support and for entrusting him to provide a “blanket of protection” around the Courts and personnel under his care.

Marshal Marsh, a native of Greenville, Alabama, served his country twice in the United States Army, and has served his state in various law enforcement roles. Marsh served in the Department of Corrections at Holman Prison, graduated from the Montgomery Police Academy, and served as a deputy in the Lowndes County Sheriff’s department. Marshal Marsh and his wife, Jennifer, reside in Deatsville, Alabama. They are active members of their church, Big Union Christian Church in Lowndes County.

For more information about Marshal Marsh, see his bio on the Supreme Court’s website [here](#).