

## **SHARON GILBERT YATES**

**Associate Judge - Court of Civil Appeals - 1993 - 2001**

**Presiding Judge - Court of Civil Appeals - 2001 - 2005**

*BORN: November 21, 1952 - Alexander City, Alabama*

Sharon Yates, the daughter of Donald Gilbert and Betty Cleveland Gilbert, grew up in Tallapoosa County, attending public schools. She received her undergraduate degree and a Master of Arts Degree in Educational Administration from the University of Alabama.

She worked in Washington, D.C., for the Office of Education on the planning staff for the Bureau of Post-Secondary Education from 1975 to 1978. She returned to Alabama in 1978 and worked as an Educational Programmer for the Southeast Regional Resource Center.

In 1979, Judge Yates enrolled in the University of Alabama School of Law, serving as a summer law clerk for Alabama Supreme Court Chief Justice C. C. Torbert, Jr. Upon graduating in 1982, she served as staff attorney for Alabama Supreme Court Associate Justice Sam A. Beatty. In 1984, she entered the private practice of law. She became a full-time professor of law at Jones Law School in May 1989, and also maintained a limited private practice until her election to the Bench.

Sharon Yates was elected in November 1992, becoming the first woman to sit on the Alabama Court of Civil Appeals. As the first woman, Judge Yates appointed the first African-American to clerk for that Court. She was re-elected in November 1998. She served as presiding judge of the Court from January 2001 to January 2005.

Judge Yates served on numerous advisory boards and committees, including the Children First Foundation; the YMCA, Youth in Government; Cumberland Law School; Jones Law School; Appellate Mediation; the Family Preservation Court Improvement Project; and the Children's Justice Task Force.

Judge Yates has three children: Nathan and twins Parker and Mallory.

*Portrait by JOHN FRANKLIN NAYLOR, American, b. 1946*

*Oil on canvas, 1997*