

Special Tribute to  
Bishop Eddie L. Long

Celebrating African-American Achievements

WHO'S WHO  
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THE ELEVENTH EDITION

Foreword By  
William Edwards






Photo by: DENISE GRAY

# PRETTY AND POISED, POLISHED AND POWERFUL

## THE HONORABLE PENNY BROWN REYNOLDS

*Presiding Judge & Owner  
Family Court with Judge Penny*

***By Alonia Jernigan***

**G**od will call into existence those things that do not exist if you only believe," is the daily affirmation that gives Judge Penny Brown Reynolds the motivation to make every day a great day. She also lives by the scripture found in Jeremiah 29:11, which essentially reminds her that God has good plans for her life. "I live by that. I believe that there is a master plan," she says.

It is apparent that God's master plan for the good judge was to use her as an inspiration to millions. Her life is a living testimony that, with God, all things are possible. As a wife, mother, grandmother, minister, judge and entrepreneur, her many accomplishments are admirable, to say the least. Executing each responsibility with a combination of beauty and grace, she has emerged from life's fiery furnace as pure gold. In a few words, Penny is pretty and poised, yet polished and powerful.

Every individual has a story. Oftentimes, people of prominence are overshadowed by their public presentation. Generally, people don't know the trials and tribulations that were endured to reach the place of prestige. Penny is no exception. Her humble beginnings identified her as the oldest of four daughters born to a single mother. She never knew her father, and she was raised by her grandparents in what she would later realize was extreme poverty. An angelic visitation at the age of 12 informed her that she would one day grow up to impact millions. "I'll never forget that vision," she recalls. "My grandmother and I were hanging clothes in the backyard on her clothesline. I really didn't know how that could happen, but I still always kept it in my heart and mind."

By the time Penny was a young adult, she had packed her bags, left New Orleans and headed for Atlanta in search of a better life. Living in her car, she and her young son endured a life of homelessness. Yet, she held fast to the wisdom of her grandparents, which taught her that education was the only escape from poverty. Initially landing three jobs, she began her college career, ultimately earning not one, but three degrees. She earned an undergraduate degree, cum laude, from Georgia State University after only three years of study, as well as a juris doctorate degree from the same institution. She most recently completed studies at the Interdenominational Theological Center, majoring in theology and graduating with a 4.0 grade point average.

Penny makes an indelible mark wherever her feet tread. She has served as Georgia's assistant attorney general and presided over trial court cases. She made history as the first African American in Georgia's history to become executive counsel to the governor (Roy Barnes). What's more, she served as the first African-American chief of staff and executive counsel to Georgia's Lieutenant Governor Pierre Howard. She impressively serves as host and owner of *Family Court with Judge Penny*, wherein she helps families work through difficult situations from a legal perspective.

Penny enjoys spending time with her husband and best friend, Rev. Edward Reynolds, senior pastor of Midway Missionary Baptist Church, where she serves as an associate minister. She is also proud of her two sons, granddaughter and daughter-in-law.