Carlton Reeves ( Yazoo )

Contents: The confirmation of Yazoo City native Carlton Reeves as U.S. District Judge for the southern district in Mississippi

Location: Vertical Files at B.S. Ricks Memorial Library of the Yazoo Library Association | 310 N. Main Street, Yazoo City, Mississippi 39194
Reeves is confirmed

Yazoo City native to serve as U.S. District judge for the southern district in Mississippi

By JASON PATTERSON
Managing Editor

Carlton Reeves has been confirmed as a U.S. District judge for the southern district in Mississippi.

The state's two Republican U.S. senators, Thad Cochran and Roger Wicker, both voted in favor of Reeves' confirmation Sunday. Reeves was nominated by President Barack Obama in April. "I'm very humbled and honored," Reeves said.

"Yazoo City prepared me well for my career," Reeves said. "I had many friendships and experiences that made me into the person I am today."

Reeves said many people inspired him in his hometown, but his biggest influence as a young man was Yazoo music teacher Jevonne McCoy. "She had a great impact on my life," Reeves said. She taught us about hard work, discipline and determination. "She believed in every student who came into her classroom, and she made sure that they believed in themselves," Reeves said.

Barack Obama in April, and "I'm very humbled and honored," Reeves said.

He thanks U.S. Rep. Bennie Thompson for pushing for his nomination, and Wicker and Cochran for supporting him. "I appreciate their support," Reeves said. "This is proof that bipartisan action is possible."

Cochran and Wicker both said they are convinced Reeves is the right man for the job.

"I congratulate Carlton Reeves on his confirmed appointment to the federal bench in our state," Cochran said. "I trust that his legal experience will serve him and the people well as he takes on this important responsibility."

"Carlton Reeves brings a diverse background of service to the bench for the Southern District of Mississippi," said Wicker. "Qualified, impartial judges are critical to continuing our nation's legal traditions."

Reeves (from page 1): State's delegation voted in favor of Yazooan

Reeves is a partner in the law firm of Piggott Reeves Johnson PA in Jackson. He also served as an assistant U.S. attorney from 1995 to 2001, where he was chief of the Southern District's civil division.


"I appreciate their support," Reeves said. "This is proof that bipartisan action is possible."

Cochran and Wicker both said they are convinced Reeves is the right man for the job.

"I congratulate Carlton Reeves on his confirmed appointment to the federal bench in our state," Cochran said. "I trust that his legal experience will serve him and the people well as he takes on this important responsibility."

"Carlton Reeves brings a diverse background of service to the bench for the Southern District of Mississippi," said Wicker. "Qualified, impartial judges are critical to continuing our nation's legal traditions."
Editorial

Carlton Reeves makes Yazoo proud

Many Yazooans proudly received the news that Carlton Reeves was confirmed as a U.S. District judge for the southern district in Mississippi.

The Yazoo City native was nominated for the post by President Barack Obama in April, and the Senate confirmed the appointment Sunday with Mississippi U.S. Sen. Roger Wicker and U.S. Senator Thad Cochran voting in favor of Reeves' appointment.

Reeves earned the prestigious appointment through hard work that has brought him success throughout his career.

He is a partner in the law firm of Piggott Reeves Johnson P.A. in Jackson where he has a reputation for showing up for work early and staying late. He also served as an assistant U.S. attorney from 1995-2001. During his tenure he served as the chief of the Southern District's civil division. The Jackson State University and University of Virginia Law School graduate has also served as president of the Magnolia Bar Association.

Reeves' experience makes him an excellent choice for this appointment. Congratulations Mr. Reeves. You have made your hometown very proud.
MHP troopers aim to arrest DUI offenders

Last year, more than 150 arrests made during holiday

By Therese Apel
tapel@jackson.gannett.com

Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol's emphasis this New Year's holiday, much like its focus at Christmas, will be to stop and arrest drunken drivers.

"The extra guys were concentrated mostly on roadblocks," at Christmas time, said Sgt. James Walker, of Jackson's Troop C.

Last year, more than 7,000 citations were issued and 150 DUI arrests were made during New Year's holiday in Mississippi. He said there were two fatalities.

"Our DUIs were up by two from last year. But more importantly, we didn't have a fatality."

Staff Sgt. Rusty Boyd of MHP's Troop M

"Anytime you go through a holiday or any other period without a fatality, you can call it a good thing," Boyd said.

There are about 525 troopers working in the state's 82 counties, down from 629 troopers following the last trooper school in 2007.

Public Safety Commissioner Steven Simpson said it's important to keep trooper numbers up during high-volume times, such as Christmas and New Year's, because of the manpower needed to see TROOPERS, 2B

Mayor to revelers: No holiday gunfire

Hinds County Sheriff's Department Lt. Jeffery Scott said shooting into the air in highly dense areas is dangerous because bullets are more likely to damage property or a person.

Although it is not illegal to

Mayor Harvey Johnson Jr.

New U.S. District Court judge sworn in at Jackson ceremony

Carlton Reeves became emotional Thursday when he was sworn in as a U.S. District judge in Mississippi.

With a standing-room-only crowd in the largest courtroom in the U.S. District Courthouse in Jackson, Reeves took the oath of office from Southern District of Mississippi Chief U.S. District Judge Louis Guirola Jr.

"This is a great day, this is a great day," Reeves repeated before the crowd that included judges — both current and former — lawyers, politicians and others sharing the special moment for him and his wife, Lora, and daughter Chanda.

Although it is not illegal to

Supporters applaud Carlton Reeves as he is sworn in as a federal district judge Thursday morning in Jackson.

Reeves, 46, said he will have a formal investiture ceremony at a later date.

President Barack Obama nominated Reeves in April to fill a vacancy created by the retirement of Judge William Barbour Jr.

The Senate confirmed him Dec. 20, making him only the second black U.S. District judge in Mississippi.

Second District U.S. Rep. Bennie Thompson, a longtime friend of Reeves who submitted his name to Obama, was in the audience Thursday.

The state's two Republican U.S. senators, Thad Cochran and Roger Wicker, were in the audience Thursday.

He will have a formal investiture ceremony at a later date.

By Jimmie E. Gates
jgates@clarionledger.com

Carlton Reeves became emotional Thursday when he was sworn in as a U.S. District judge in Mississippi.

With a standing-room-only crowd in the largest courtroom in the U.S. District Courthouse in Jackson, Reeves took the oath of office from Southern District of Mississippi Chief U.S. District Judge Louis Guirola Jr.

"This is a great day, this is a great day," Reeves repeated before the crowd that included judges — both current and former — lawyers, politicians and others sharing the special moment for him and his wife, Lora, and daughter Chanda.

Although it is not illegal to

Supporters applaud Carlton Reeves as he is sworn in as a federal district judge Thursday morning in Jackson.

Reeves, 46, said he will have a formal investiture ceremony at a later date.

By Jimmie E. Gates
jgates@clarionledger.com

Carlton Reeves became emotional Thursday when he was sworn in as a U.S. District judge in Mississippi.

With a standing-room-only crowd in the largest courtroom in the U.S. District Courthouse in Jackson, Reeves took the oath of office from Southern District of Mississippi Chief U.S. District Judge Louis Guirola Jr.

"This is a great day, this is a great day," Reeves repeated before the crowd that included judges — both current and former — lawyers, politicians and others sharing the special moment for him and his wife, Lora, and daughter Chanda.

Although it is not illegal to

Supporters applaud Carlton Reeves as he is sworn in as a federal district judge Thursday morning in Jackson.

Reeves, 46, said he will have a formal investiture ceremony at a later date.

President Barack Obama nominated Reeves in April to fill a vacancy created by the retirement of Judge William Barbour Jr.

The Senate confirmed him Dec. 20, making him only the second black U.S. District judge in Mississippi.

Second District U.S. Rep. Bennie Thompson, a longtime friend of Reeves who submitted his name to Obama, was in the audience Thursday.

The state's two Republican U.S. senators, Thad Cochran and Roger Wicker, were in the audience Thursday.

He will have a formal investiture ceremony at a later date.

By Jimmie E. Gates
jgates@clarionledger.com

Carlton Reeves became emotional Thursday when he was sworn in as a U.S. District judge in Mississippi.

With a standing-room-only crowd in the largest courtroom in the U.S. District Courthouse in Jackson, Reeves took the oath of office from Southern District of Mississippi Chief U.S. District Judge Louis Guirola Jr.

"This is a great day, this is a great day," Reeves repeated before the crowd that included judges — both current and former — lawyers, politicians and others sharing the special moment for him and his wife, Lora, and daughter Chanda.

Although it is not illegal to

Supporters applaud Carlton Reeves as he is sworn in as a federal district judge Thursday morning in Jackson.

Reeves, 46, said he will have a formal investiture ceremony at a later date.

President Barack Obama nominated Reeves in April to fill a vacancy created by the retirement of Judge William Barbour Jr.

The Senate confirmed him Dec. 20, making him only the second black U.S. District judge in Mississippi.

Second District U.S. Rep. Bennie Thompson, a longtime friend of Reeves who submitted his name to Obama, was in the audience Thursday.

The state's two Republican U.S. senators, Thad Cochran and Roger Wicker, were in the audience Thursday.

He will have a formal investiture ceremony at a later date.

By Jimmie E. Gates
jgates@clarionledger.com

Carlton Reeves became emotional Thursday when he was sworn in as a U.S. District judge in Mississippi.

With a standing-room-only crowd in the largest courtroom in the U.S. District Courthouse in Jackson, Reeves took the oath of office from Southern District of Mississippi Chief U.S. District Judge Louis Guirola Jr.

"This is a great day, this is a great day," Reeves repeated before the crowd that included judges — both current and former — lawyers, politicians and others sharing the special moment for him and his wife, Lora, and daughter Chanda.

Although it is not illegal to
City proclaims April 15 Carlton Reeves Day

Ward 4 Alderman Aubry Brent Jr. presents a proclamation on behalf of the city to Yazoo native and U.S. District Judge Carlton Reeves. The city has proclaimed April 15 to be Carlton Reeves Day.

Quote of the Day

"There is no substitute for hard work."

Thomas A. Edison
Reeves prepares to take seat as U.S. District judge after unanimous vote

By Earnest McBride
Jackson Advocate Contributing Editor

Yazoo City has come into the national spotlight this past week after native son—and Governor—Haley Barbour triggered a rousing debate over his controversial representation of race relations there before school desegregation took effect.

A more realistic perspective of Yazoo City’s history may be found in the experience of Jackson Attorney Carlton Reeves, who, as a student, was one of the first African Americans to desegregate the public schools in his hometown. And that early fight for justice set him on a track that he has pursued ever since, Congressman Mike Thompson, one of his staunchest boosters says.

As of Sunday evening, Reeves, now 46, is scheduled to be sworn in as United States District Judge for the Southern District of Mississippi.

Reeves attended Jackson State University (Magna cum laude Class of 1986) and then went on to the University of Virginia’s Law School before returning to his home state. He spent six years as the Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Mississippi after a two-year clerking stint under Mississippi Supreme Court Justice Reuben Anderson (1989-1991) and five years with the prestigious Phelps Dunbar law firm (1991-1995). Since 2001, he has been a shareholder and partner with Pigott Reeves Johnson law firm.

We become only the second Judge Carlton Reeves

Cochran and Roger Wicker, whose praises and votes were critical in the confirmation process, since it only the Senate that votes for federal judges. It was Thompson, nevertheless, who took the initiative in bringing Reeves name up for consideration.

“I was fortunate and very happy to have been in a position to recommend Carlton Reeves for a vacant judgeship,” Thompson said from his Washington office Wednesday morning. “My knowledge of him and his legal ability left no doubt that, properly vetted, he would be approved. And the unanimous vote by the Senate signifies that they agreed with me. More importantly, as someone who grew up in Yazoo City and who attended of more than 300 White Citizens Council group. Black people who signed petitions to integrate the schools lost their jobs, lost their homes and in some cases had to leave the state.

“It was not an easy path for a young black student like Carlton Reeves at that time. And for him to go on to a prestigious law school like the University of Virginia and come back to practice in Mississippi is a positive sign of his dedication to making changes where they are most needed. Hopefully, he will serve as a role model for other young people who get an education outside the state who will consider coming back.

“I meet people who excel in the legal field and in the medical fields in nearly every city brought before the U.S. Court. “You are required to handle any kind of case that will be filed in federal court. These cases might include Constitutional questions, employment discrimination, sexual harassment, civil rights, bank robbery and kidnapping.”

Reeves points out that if a case comes before his court that is handled by his current law firm, he will have to recuse himself. The recusal requirement will be in place for a number of years, he says. After that, he will hear all cases, regardless of the attorneys of the affiliation lawyers presenting either side of the case.

Reeves’ current law partner and close friend, Cliff Johnson, is genuinely happy to see the new judge moving up to the federal bench.

“His life is about to change tremendously,” said Johnson. “With him being such an outspoken advocate, this will be a big change for him.”

Johnson worked under Reeves as an assistant U.S. Attorney and says he is sure that Reeves will easily adjust to his new duties.

“Although judges frequently render different opinions on the cases that come before them—this accounts for the dissenting views when they sit on a panel—I don’t foresee any real conflicts for Carlton with other judges. Even though they might have some ideological differences, at the end of the day, they take very seriously their responsibility of applying the law to the given cases.”

Chief Justice William J. Mays ordered sign pointed Dec. 9 of the Mississippi's $1.13 million settlement with the U.S. Department of Justice.

Chief Justice Mays re-called the remarks he made earlier in the year that the state was not a model for other young people and criticized for referring to State Sen. Johnnie Pipkin as a white boy.

“Chief Justice Mays said the state will continue to work hard to implement the agreement and to ensure that the state meets the criteria for a successful settlement,” declared Chief Justice Mays.

He has also called on the state to do more to ensure that the state meets the criteria for a successful settlement. He has called on the state to do more to ensure that the state meets the criteria for a successful settlement. He has also called on the state to do more to ensure that the state meets the criteria for a successful settlement.
firm (1991-1995). Since 2001, he has been a shareholder and the partner with Pigott Reeves Johnson law firm.

He becomes only the second African American from Mississippi to attain such a high judicial position, and the first from Yazoo City.

Sunday's Senate confirmation of Reeves as judge of the district court drew praises from all over the country. But one response just might have resounded a little louder than the others.

Congressman Bennie Thompson, the one who recommended Reeves to President Barack Obama for appointment, was one of the first elected officials to congratulate Reeves on his confirmation.

Reeves says he is equally grateful to Senators Thad

Senate signifies that they agreed with me. More importantly, as someone who grew up in Yazoo City and who attended Jackson State University, he would be thoroughly familiar with a lot of the issues dealing with equity, justice and fair play and, as a judge, would give such issues ample review.

Regarding the nearly polar opposite views of Reeves and Barbour about the Yazoo City of their youth, Thompson said that Reeves had acquired a better sense of purpose in his life and career as a fighter for justice.

“Gov. Barbour’s recollections of Yazoo City in the 1960s conflicts with the documented facts,” Thompson said. “The school district had to be sued to desegregate. There was an ac-

coming back.

“I meet people who excel in the legal field and in the medical fields in nearly every city in this country. But that does not help Mississippi. So I’m convinced that a young boy from Yazoo City, Mississippi will now become a sitting federal judge can become a part of the renaissance of highly-trained African Americans coming back to the state.”

Reeves has had extensive experience as a lawyer in the U. S. District Court as well as the U. S. Court of Appeals. He also has some judicial experience, having served as special master in the Hinds County Chancery Court. Most of the cases ruled on were tied to child support and paternity issues.

He looks forward to the wide array of cases that will be

ences, at the end of the day, they take very seriously their responsibility of applying the law to the given cases.

“I’ve been very encouraged by the reception Carlton has gotten from the other judges in the community of the sitting judges when it comes to sharing their time with him,” Johnson said. “I think he’s going to have a smooth transition next year.”

Johnson said that there will be one downside to Reeves leaving his current practice for his judge’s seat. “Carlton’s departure is going to leave a huge void. We’ve had several months to redistribute the work in our office. But the bottom line is that it’s going to hurt. And everyone left behind is going to have to pick up the slack.”