



The Honorable Noma D. Gurich, Chief justice, Oklahoma Supreme Court

Justice Noma D. Gurich was born in South Bend, Indiana. In 1971, she graduated from Penn High School in Mishawaka, Indiana. In 1975, she graduated Magna Cum Laude from Indiana State University with a degree in Political Science. In 1978, she received her Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Oklahoma College of Law. She was an editor of the American Indian Law Review and received the Professional Responsibility Award.

Justice Gurich has lived in Oklahoma City for more than 30 years. Before she began her judicial career, she was engaged in the private practice of law in Oklahoma City for 10 years. In 1988, she was appointed by Governor Henry Bellmon to serve as a Judge on the Oklahoma Workers' Compensation. She served as Presiding Judge of that court for four years. In 1994, she was reappointed for a second term by Governor David Walters. In 1998, she was appointed by Governor Frank Keating to the District Court bench, and she won a county-wide election for District Judge that same year. She was re-elected without opposition in 2002, 2006 and 2010.

Judge Gurich served as the Presiding Administrative Judge for the Seventh Judicial District, Oklahoma County from January of 2003 to December 31, 2004. Judge Gurich presided over more than 190 jury trials during her career as District Judge. While serving as a District Judge, Gurich served as the Presiding Judge of both the 11th and 12th Multi-county Grand Juries (2007-2008 and 2009-2010) by order of the Chief Justice of the Oklahoma Supreme Court. In 2011, Justice Gurich was appointed by Governor Brad Henry as the third woman Justice of the Supreme Court of Oklahoma.

Justice Gurich served as President of the William J. Holloway, Jr. American Inn of Court from 2007 to April of 2008. She continues as a Master member of the Inn. She received the 2003 Mona Salyer Lambird Spotlight Award from the OBA Women in Law Committee. She is a two time Journal Record Honoree for Woman of the Year in 2005 and 2008. She is Past President and member of the Kiwanis Club of Oklahoma City and was only the second woman President of the 90 year old club when she served in 2006-2007. She serves annually on the Application Screening Committee for the Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics. Justice Gurich is an active member of St. Luke's United Methodist Church, where she is a volunteer Mobile Meals driver and TV camera operator. Judge Gurich served as a missionary to Russia in 1993, 1997, 2000, 2002, and 2004.