



Association of Adventist Women

Marla Osborne Anderson

— Woman of the Year —

Outstanding Achievement

2004

Maria Osborne-Anderson was sworn in as a judge on Friday, the 13th of January, 1995. Less than six months later, her seat was up for election and nobody expected the newcomer to win, especially since Anderson was a 35-year-old African-American woman running in largely Caucasian Monterey County, California.

Anderson set out on a rigorous schedule of speaking and canvassing. After a full day in her all-purpose municipal courtroom, she attended civic meetings and traveled throughout the wide judicial district, knocking on doors. She won the election with 60 percent of the vote.

Currently Anderson is a superior court judge, a pastor's wife, and a mother of a preschooler.

Yet she finds time to serve as a board member for the Community Foundation of Monterey County, attend Rotary, and teach on the faculty of the California Center for Judicial Education and Research, a state organization training judges.

As a pastor's wife, she can act in a leadership role or serve at a church potluck. She's an assistant leader for the women's ministry program at the Seaside Community Seventh-day Adventist Church.

In addition to a busy schedule of public speaking, Anderson is often solicited to perform weddings. Last November, she and her husband were asked to officiate at a wedding together—she to do the vows, he to give the homily.



Frederick J. Anderson, husband and pastor, says of Maria: “My wife is an independent, mature, impartial judge—and one of God’s best representatives on earth.”

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