



## OHIO WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION NETWORK NEWSLETTER

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Our purpose is to promote the leadership, advancement and interests of women attorneys through professional education, networking and the exchange of ideas between our members, local bar associations, business and the community.

# Ohio Women's Bar Association president gives remarks at the swearing-in ceremony for Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor



*Below is the speech given by Ohio Women's Bar Association President Valoria C. Hoover at the swearing in ceremony for Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor on Jan. 7, 2011, in Columbus, Ohio. To view the ceremony, go to the following link: [www.ohiochannel.org](http://www.ohiochannel.org).*

It is customary for anyone speaking at these great occasions to begin her remarks with the phrase, "it is my great honor" or "my rare privilege," or perhaps "I have the distinct pleasure."

Well, believe me, it is all those things and more. Honor. Privilege. Pleasure.

But today Chief Justice O'Connor, members of the court, honored guests, my presence here today is a time of joy! Joy to be saying a few words in honor of my bar colleague, a role model and my friend, Maureen O'Connor, as she makes history and becomes the 10th chief justice of the Ohio Supreme Court.

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## McGee Brown sworn in as first African-American woman on state's highest court

During a momentous week for the Ohio judiciary, Yvette McGee Brown was sworn in as the first African-American woman justice in the 207-year history of the Supreme Court of Ohio. Her swearing-in came after Justice Maureen O'Connor took the oath of office the day before, becoming the first woman to serve as Ohio's chief justice. Governor Ted Strickland appointed former judge McGee Brown to the Supreme Court in early December when the seat became open after Justice O'Connor was elected as Chief Justice in November.

Governor Strickland administered the oath of office to McGee Brown during a public swearing-in ceremony at the King Arts Complex in the Columbus neighborhood where she was raised. More than 750 people from across Ohio gathered to celebrate the historic event. McGee Brown follows former Justices Robert M. Duncan and Lloyd O. Brown as the third African-American member of Ohio's high court and is the eighth woman to serve on the Court. With her appointment, the Court has its third ever female majority.

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