

# Judge Robert L. (Beau) Patterson

First African American Appointee  
Presiding Judge Denver County Court  
2016

MS-ARLM4

Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library  
Denver Public Library

# Judge Robert L. (Beau) Patterson

First African American Appointee  
Presiding Judge of the Denver County Court

Processed by the Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library  
Denver Public Library  
2016

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May 7, 2016

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**Biographical Note:**

After earning his law degree in 1974 from the University Of Colorado College Of Law, Judge Patterson worked as a staff attorney for the Legal Aid Society. He later served as a Colorado United States Public Defender and as an Assistant Colorado Attorney General.

Denver Mayor Federico Pena appointed Patters as a judge for the Denver County Court in 1985. In 1998, Mayor Wellington E. Webb appointed him as the first

African American presiding judge. In this role, he was challenged to improve his oratorical skills. He joined Toastmasters and was honored as Toastmaster of the Year, 2002-2003, by the Downtown Speakeasy Toastmaster Club.

Under Patterson's direction, the Central Denver Community Court was established in Five Points for traffic infraction final hearings. Small claims trials, and juvenile curfew cases. He also established four additional satellite courts in other quadrants of the city.

Being raised in the Five Points area of Denver, Patterson has said that he wants to be remembered as "the home grown kid that didn't turn his back". Judge Patterson retired from the bench in December, 2004.

Source: "Judge Robert L. "Beau" Patterson: From Five Points to High Points", Linda Y. Brown, Denver Spectrum,

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Judge Robert L. (Beau) Patterson  
Container List

Box No.	Descriptions	Date
Letter 1	Thank you for serving as a member of the Committee on Delay Reduction. Signed: Joseph R. Quinn, Chief Justice	8.6.86
Article 1	"At the Bench and on the Field Judge Robert L. Patterson" Lead Article; <i>The Denver Journal</i> , Volume 1, Number 2	4.24.87
Letter 2	Letter of application for the office of Presiding Judge of the Denver County Court effective January 1998, to Mayor Wellington Webb	9.22.97
Article 2	"Robert Patterson Sworn in as Presiding Judge", Article: <i>The Docket</i> , Volume 20, Number 2	2.1.98
Letter 3	Letter of request for assistance to create a charter amendment regarding City Council tenure, from the City Council, City and County of Denver. Signed: John Bennett, Staff Director	7.13.98
Press	"Mayor Re-Appoints Judge Patterson as Presiding Judge of Denver County Court, from the office of the mayor	12.6.99
Article 3	"Court Opens at Clyburn Village", Central Denver Community Court, <i>The Clyburn Villager</i> , Volume 3, Issue 3, Sept-Oct-Nov 2000	
Letter 4	Congratulatory letter on selection as inductee into the Clyburn Village's "Living Senior Hall of Fame: Hands that make a difference" Signed: Jacqueline G. Peterson, President, Eldercare 2000	7.15.01
Certificate 1	Luncheon Speaker at the Black on Black Crime Conference from The Institute for Social Justice, Inc., The Metropolitan State College of Denver, National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice, Colorado Chapter and the US Community Relations Service of Denver 4/22-24/2001	
Certificate 2	Panelist at the annual American Cultural Project, Global Cultural International, Inc. June 11-18, 2001 Signed: Sunday A. Aigbe, PhD Director	9.8.01
Program 1	Clyburn Village Proudly Presents 2001 Inductees to the Living Sr. Hall of Fame	8.3.01
Certificate 3	Of Appreciation presented to : "Honorable Robert Patterson For service to the Judicial Council National Bar Association Signed: Cecil B. Patterson, Jr. , CHAIR	10.12.01

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Letter 5	Thank you for use of resources for the Youth Outreach Program. Signed: Mary Maxwell Thomas, Chair, Yourth Outreach Committee National Judicial Council, National Bar Association	10.15.01
Letter 6	Thank you for coordination of program for the Yoiuth Outreach Program. Signed: Cecil B. Patterson, Jr., Chair, Judicial Council, National Bar Association	10.22.01
Letter 7	Thank you for the swearing in of the Denver Public Schools Student Board members. (Signed by all.)	11.2.01
Letter 8 (Email)	To fellow members of the Sam Cary Bar Association for assistance in the National Bar Association's 13th Annual Wiley A. Branton Issues Symposium and Luncheon. Signed: Stephanie Y. O'Malley, President	10.18.01
Letter 9	Thank you for sharing with students in the annual "Tribute to Black Youth" program. Signed: Kathryn Bates Gavin, Chairman, Tribute to Black Youth, The Links, Inc., Denver Chapter	5.12.03
Letter 10	Acknowledgement of participation in the US Conference of Mayors held in Denver, CO. Signed: Lee P. Brown, Mayor, City of Houston, Texas	6.11.03
Website Print	Denver County Court Internet website on DenverGov. Judge Patterson pictured in his office in front of portrait of Thurgood Marshall	No Date
Letter 11	Appreciation letter for participation in the US Conference of Mayors, June 5-8, 2003 in Denver. Signed: S P D Skhosana, Executive Mayor, Nkangala Distict Municipality, Middelburg, Mpumalanga, South Africa	
Card	Seasons Greetings! Judge Beau Patterson and Please Rise (Motvational Speaking Company), Hilton Head, South Carolina	No Date
Picture	Denver Post picture and caption, laminated. "Judge sworn in".	2.1.98
Note	Congratulations to Judge Beau Patterson. Signed: Pauline	No date
DVD	"Show Me the Money", Boys & Girls Clubs	6.23.08