

Committed to Diversity in Law

First Black justice bestowed honor

Justice Adrienne C. Nelson of the Oregon Supreme Court has been honored by the American Bar Association, the largest voluntary association of lawyers in the world, for her commitment to racial and ethnic diversity in law.



Oregon Supreme Court Justice Nelson, the court's first Black justice, is honored for her work demonstrating a commitment to racial and ethnic diversity in the law.

Nelson, the first Black justice in the history of Oregon's highest court, received the group's 2022 Spirit of Excellence Award during a Feb. 12 meeting. The honor is for lawyers who work to promote a more racially and ethnically diverse legal profession and personify excellence on the national, state or local level.

Nelson was named to the high court in 2018. A former litigator, she was appointed in 2006 to the Multnomah County Circuit Court, making her only the second Black female judge in Oregon history. Nelson is currently one of eight Black female justices in the country. Adrienne Nelson High School was recently named in her honor in Happy Valley.

"I am inspired by the work of this year's awardees," said Mi-

chelle Behnke, chair of the ABA Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession. "These awardees have blazed trails and have encouraged and supported others to succeed. Most importantly, these awardees highlight for the world that diversity, equity and inclusion is not mutually exclusive to excellence, grit and determination."

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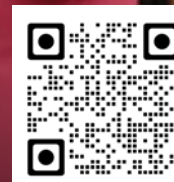
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Celebrating Black history now and all year long

Through hard work, new approaches, and dedication to equity and inclusion at our college and in East Multnomah County



MHCC is honored to be the recipient of the national 2021 Charles Kennedy Equity Award



Read more about the work we're doing at mhcc.edu/MHCC-National-Equity-Award