



Vanessa D. Gilmore
United States District Judge
Southern District of Texas
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In 1994 when Judge Vanessa Diane Gilmore was sworn in, she was then the youngest sitting federal judge in the nation. A graduate of Hampton University, B.S. 1977, and the University of Houston, J.D., 1981, Gilmore has more than twenty-seven years of experience handling matters involving patents and copyrights, labor and employment and securities class actions. She has issued important decisions on intellectual property, products liability, securities fraud, energy and utilities, insurance and environmental law. She has handled significant matters including the trial of the Enron Broadband case and the building of the Galveston cruise ship terminal.

Gilmore currently serves on the board of Texas Children's Hospital where she is responsible for Quality Service and Safety, Public Policy, and Buildings and Grounds. Her responsibilities have included providing input for the building of a new branch of the hospital in Austin, Texas. She is also a member of the board of the DePelchin Children's Center. Gilmore has previously served on a number of other boards including the River Oaks Baptist School (risk management and audit committees), the First Tee of Houston, the President's advisory council at the University of Houston, and on the board of her alma mater, Hampton University, where she was involved in the financing and launching of the university's proton beam therapy institute.

Judge Gilmore was previously a member of the Texas Department of Commerce Policy board where she also served as chairperson. Her appointment to that board made Gilmore the first African-American to serve on the board responsible for increasing business, promoting tourism and developing job training for the state of Texas. She also served as chairperson of Texans for NAFTA. In this capacity, she worked regularly with diplomatic leaders including the President of Mexico to increase U.S. trade opportunities.

Gilmore has also served as the president of her son's company, which was formed to market and sell his patented invention, the Sleepover Bed Tent.