



VERONICA BRINSON

Law Office of Veronica Brinson

Macon

Age: 33

Veronica Brinson, 33, is a municipal court judge, a practicing attorney with her own firm specializing in family law, criminal and appeals cases, and a single mom with two teenage sons.

She also founded Success Matters For Us, Too, an organization that, among other things, reaches out to teenaged moms like she once was. "I tell them not to quit," Brinson says. "I talk to them about perseverance using my own life as an example." She has a lot to say.

A product of Macon city schools, Brinson attended Mercer University and Mercer University Law School. After briefly working in Albany and Atlanta, she returned to Macon, intent on making a difference. "I want to make sure the [legal] process works for everyone," she says. "I hope that everyone — judge, jury or appeals court — sees that there are two sides to every story."

Brinson puts that philosophy into action as she sits on the bench, a role she doesn't take lightly. "I hear mostly criminal misdemeanors, traffic cases like DUIs," says Brinson, who used to prosecute DUI offenders as a part-time county solicitor. "We sometimes have to wear different hats as attorneys," she adds. "Again, we must have the ability to see the two sides to every case and, no matter what the circumstances, ensure that everyone is aware of their Constitutional rights."

Giving a voice to the disenfranchised was a major motivation for Brinson when she entered the legal profession. "I've always supported the underdog," she says. "I saw the law as a mechanism for those people without a voice to have access to justice. Sometimes all it takes is a well-placed phone call to make something happen."

Though she claims to have "laid down the superwoman cloak a long time ago," Brinson belies the statement by juggling the needs of her sons, Ryan and Bryant, whom she calls "my biggest cheerleaders," and those of her clients, profession and foundation. — *E.L.*