

Mrs. Ena Allen

- 4 JUL 1975

First Jamaican Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court

MRS. ENA BLANCHE ALLEN holds the record as being the first woman to be appointed Registrar of Jamaica's Supreme Court and the first woman to act as Master in Chambers.

Born Ena Blanche Lue Sang, Mrs. Allen was educated at Central Branch Elementary School and Excelsior College. She read for the Bar 1951-53 and was called to the Bar, Lincoln's Inn London, June 23, 1953. That year, returning to Jamaica she was appointed Deputy Clerk of the Courts. In 1957

Court

she was promoted Clerk of the Court.

Legal Practitioners and clients alike will best remember Mrs. Allen's services at the Civil Division of the Kingston R.M. Court (East and Beeston Streets) closely following her appointment to the Civil Service in May 1943, which was broken for a short period when she enlisted in the War-Time A.T.S. in Jamaica in which she was a Corporal. This was in May 1944. Her service ended in 1946 and she

returned to the Civil Division R.M. Court (Kingston).

MRS. ALLEN acted as Resident Magistrate at various periods between the years 1961-63. She was appointed



MRS. ENA ALLEN

Resident Magistrate in November 1963. She was appointed Chairman of the Juvenile Court (Western Region-1964-1966) Resident Magistrate Clarendon (1967); Saint Catherine (1969-70).

On May 1, 1970, Mrs. Allen was appointed Acting Registrar of the Supreme Court, and on October 20, that year, became the first woman to be appointed Registrar. In 1972 and 1973, Mrs. Allen acted as Master-In Chambers and within a year on July 15, 1974 was confirmed in the post.

Mrs. Allen acted as Puisne Judge of the High Court from March 26, 1973 to November 13, 1973 and from April 22, 1974 to now.

Profoundly interested in the problems of youth and their rehabilitation in 1962 Mrs. Allen attended a four-month course in Juvenile Court work in the United States of America and Canada. Other participants included Mrs. Ena Collymore Woodstock and Miss Joyce Groves, both Resident Magistrates.

She married Herbert Percival Allen (now deceased) a former Resident Magistrate and Barrister (Attorney at law). She has one daughter, who is now an undergraduate studying Natural Sciences at the University of the West Indies.

-VIVIAN DURHAM

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