

Hello to all:

It is my humble pleasure to inform you that I **won** the election. I take this moment to thank each and every one of you for all you did to make my success possible. I know each of you in your special way contributed to my campaign in many ways. Words cannot express enough how grateful I am to you. I am blessed to have each of you as a friend, your time and support during my campaign.

Thanks very much. I will reach out to thank each of you in person in the near future.
Pam



"JUSTICE" PAM B. JACKMAN-BROWN

PROFILE of the Week: Pam Jackman-Brown: Candidate for Justice of the New York State Supreme Court, Queens County.

By: Dhanpaul Narine in **'THE WEST INDIAN'**

How does a shy Guyanese girl rise to become one of the top legal minds in New York? The story of Pam Jackman-Brown is one that shows class, courage, and a determination to succeed at all costs. Pam Jackman-Brown is currently acting as a Judge in the Queens Supreme Court in New York. She is a candidate for the post of Judge in the Supreme Court and the elections will be held on Tuesday, November 8th 2011. If Judge Brown wins that election she will create history by becoming one of the few women to be so elected.

Pam Jackman-Brown was born in Springlands, in Berbice, Guyana. She is the second child and the second girl in a family of six children. Her parents are Charles and Olga Jackman. The young Pam was educated in Georgetown and at Springlands. In Georgetown she went to Smith's Church Congregational School in Hadfield Street. After that she attended Tutorial High School before returning to Berbice to finish her education. This was done at Skeldon Lutheran School and Scardia High School in New Amsterdam.

Pam's best subjects were History and Math. She says, " I have a head for figures. If you asked me then if I would go on to become a lawyer I would have to say no." After high school and success at her GCE O'Levels Pam took secretarial courses while awaiting her papers to travel to the United States to further her studies.

In 1973, that momentous journey was made. Pam left Guyana for the United States. She was going to stay with her aunt and uncle, Pearl and Clifton Shurland. As she sat in that plane Pam could be forgiven for feeling a sense of uncertainty. After all she was going to a new country and she was not sure what the future would bring.

Clifton and Pearl were at the Airport to meet Pam and this was an assuring start. Her idea was to study medicine but she was told that this would take too long to complete.

Pam went to business school instead and found that she had to relearn programs. When she had completed this aspect of her education Pam went to a job fair in Brooklyn. She was required to take an exam and this led to her first City job. Pam was hired as a secretary at the Department of Mental Health and Retardation. She says, " I was a secretary and I was doing well. My immediate supervisor was Paul Hooper, the Assistant Commissioner. One day, Mr. Hooper told me that I should go to Law School. It was he who planted that idea in my head and he even gave me my first law dictionary which I have to this day."

Pam enrolled at the Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC) to further her studies and graduated from there in 1979. She tutored for a while at BMCC in statistics before moving on to John Jay College to do administration courses. One of her teachers there was Benjamin Ward, the former Commissioner of Police. He would send Pam to visit women's correctional facilities as part of her course. While she was a good student Pam was shy and even though she knew the answers she would prefer to sit and not say a word.

This changed one day when her speech teacher Professor Golda Solomon asked her to go in front of the class and make her presentation. Pam overcame her shyness and her presentation was a masterpiece earning the plaudits of everyone present. Pam worked hard and graduated from John Jay 'magna cum laude' in 1983. She applied to various law schools and was accepted but after careful thought Pam decided to study at CUNY Law School. She was among the first batch of students in 1983. Pam enjoyed her stay at CUNY. She worked hard, saw Law as her calling and began to flower. She graduated in 1986 with her Law degree and instead of looking for a lucrative job Pam decided to serve her community.

She took a job with the Legal Aid Society in Brooklyn. She says, " At the Legal Aid Society I represented persons who were accused of crimes from misdemeanors to felonies. My most

memorable case was to represent a gentleman who had a long rap sheet. Everyone thought he was guilty, except me. During the trial the facts did not play out and he was acquitted.”

In 1989 Pam’s life took a new turn. She received an offer to clerk for Judge Yvonne Lewis in Brooklyn. Pam excelled in doing legal research, conferencing of cases and the drafting of legal opinions. She also worked as an arbitrator on small claims cases. After nine years as a clerk Pam was surprised one day when Judge Yvonne Lewis handed her a package. In it was an application for Pam to apply to be a Judge.

The appointment of a Judge is a complicated six-step process and the candidate is required to pass in all of them. Pam was successful and she was appointed as a Judge in the Housing Court Bench. She handled landlord and tenant matters and enforced the building codes, among others. A judge must go through a rating system every five years and Pam has been re-appointed each time.

She worked in Queens County from 1998 until 2005 after which she went to Manhattan. In 2009 Pam was elected to the Civil Court where she served until 2010. Pam’s ability was recognized and like an unstoppable force she continued to blaze the trail. In 2010 she was appointed to act as a Justice in the Supreme Court in Queens County, New York. She is assigned to the Civil Division, Matrimonial Part.

There is of course the election on Tuesday, November 8th 2011. Pam is endorsed by the Democratic Party in Queens but she is leaving nothing to chance.

As a testimony to her dedication and hard work, Pam became the “face” of CUNY as her picture was proudly displayed on the NYC buses as part of CUNY’s “Catch the Success” program. But they were even more honors as Pam has published various judicial opinions, has had her work mentioned in the New York Times, and was honored by a cross-section of the community, including the Queens Women’s Bar Association, the New York City Council, BMCC, the Graduates Association of the CUNY School of Law, and the Guyana Tri-State Alliance, among many others.

Pam has spoken at many forums and her speeches have always been uplifting and motivational. One of her passions is to travel and she has visited Egypt and Tahiti, and hopes to do Africa soon. In the summer of 2011 Pam visited Guyana and had a great time. “ I drove from Corentyne to Parika,” she says with a smile. “ I enjoyed the coconut water, fresh milk and dholl pouri and curry.” Pam has worked with young people all her life and she would like them to ignore distractions and to carry themselves with a urpose. Pam is an excellent role model and her sister Gail is an attorney who is walking in Pam’s footsteps. The rock of the family is Pam’s mother, Olga, and words are not enough to thank her.

Pam has done well and has made us proud but her work has just begun. On November 8th, 2011she will become the newest Judge of the Supreme Court in Queens, New York. What an honor this will be for this daughter of Guyana! We are proud of Pam Jackman- Brown and may she long preside as a Justice of the Supreme Court.