



**Hon. Ruth Rocker McMullin**  
Judge  
Gwinnett County Magistrate Court

Judge Ruth Rocker McMullin was born in Saigon, Vietnam to a Vietnamese mother and African American father. The Fall of Saigon in 1975 led the family to evacuate the country and ultimately return to her father's home state of Alabama. There, her parents raised her, her brothers, and extended family in a small rural town named Ohatchee.

Judge McMullin holds degrees from Jacksonville State University and Emory University School of Law. She began her career at the DeKalb County Public Defender's Office where she defended indigent clients charged with a wide variety of serious felonies. She also serves as an adjunct professor at Emory School of Law where she has taught trial skills and advocacy for over ten years.

In 2014 she was appointed by Chief Judge Kristina H. Blum to the magistrate bench, becoming the first Vietnamese judge in Gwinnett County. In 2018 she was awarded the Trailblazer Award by the National Conference of Vietnamese American Attorneys.

Throughout her career, she has worked and volunteered fighting for civil rights with organizations such as the Southern Center for Human Rights, the Southern Poverty Law Center, the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, and Lawyers Without Borders. She currently serves on the Emory Law Alumni Board as well as the Emory Black Law Students Alumni Board.

She and her husband, Vaughn, are also busy raising their three children (including twins) and their pet, Lila the turtle.