

January, 2018

Judge Jimmie M. Edwards  
Director of Public Safety  
City of St. Louis

BIO

Judge Jimmie M. Edwards, known for his commitment to troubled youths, was appointed Director of Public Safety for the City of St. Louis by Mayor Lyda Krewson in November, 2017. The city's public safety director oversees more than 3,500 employees and has an operating budget of \$340 million. The public safety department is the largest department in the City of St. Louis and includes the police and fire departments.

Honorable Judge Jimmie M. Edwards served as a Circuit Judge for the State of Missouri for over 25 years. From 2007 to 2012, Judge Edwards served as Administrative Judge of the Family Court.

Judge Edwards believes that public servants must be so thoroughly committed to the betterment of our society that they make personal sacrifices, invent solutions and work tirelessly to help those unable to help themselves.

After recognizing that the City of St. Louis was suffering from an unrelenting cycle of juvenile offenders dropping out of school and being expelled at high rates and hence cementing their path to lifelong criminality, he resolved to attack the problem himself. In 2009, Judge Edwards opened Innovative Concept Academy. The goal of the school is to educate at-risk youth while combatting risk factors and negative behaviors that keep them from obtaining a high school diploma.

With his background, he is more familiar than most with the issues surrounding urban crime and violence. He recognizes that our justice system is merely one piece of a complex and precarious puzzle. At its best, government and the courts dispense justice and hold the guilty accountable. But good governance also seeks out the root causes for societal dysfunction, shows compassion when warranted and works to improve opportunities for future generations.

As Public Safety Director, he believes that committed community partners will help change the behaviors and outlook of citizens and neighborhoods alike.

He believes that public safety is everyone's responsibility, part of the core of being a member of society. Justice is only as effective as its citizenry, and our respect for one another. It's not always easy, and not always pleasant. Sometimes it takes courage. It's often inconvenient. But Judge Edwards' experience tells him that no amount of law enforcement, no kind of ace police work, no improvement in the makeup and conduct of our law enforcement will ever improve public safety without the participation of ordinary people.

cont'd

Judge Edwards has received national acclaim from the CBS Early Show, the Today Show and the Wall Street Journal. PEOPLE magazine named Judge Edwards one of its 2011 heroes of the year. Ebony magazine selected him to its 2013 Power 100 most influential in America List and Chief Justice of the United States John Roberts presented Judge Jimmie M. Edwards with the William Rehnquist Award for Judicial Excellence – one of our nation’s highest judicial awards. The National Bar Association Judicial Council presented him with the Raymond Pace Alexander Award, for his contribution to judicial advocacy and humanity. In 2014, Judge Edwards received honorary Doctor of Laws Degrees from Saint Louis University and Eden Theological Seminary. In 2016, Judge Edwards was inducted into the Missouri Public Service Hall of Fame. In 2017, Judge Edwards was inducted into the Order of Fleur De Lis, Saint Louis University School of Law Hall of Fame.