

The Honorable Karen H. Abrams (Ret.) was appointed to the Circuit Court for St. Mary's County in October of 2002. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from George Washington University, was a social worker in Southern Maryland for seven years, and went on to receive her JD from Catholic University Columbus School of Law. She was admitted to the practice of law in 1979 and handled family, criminal, traffic, tort, contract, corporate, land use and zoning, real estate, estates and trusts, and administrative law cases in St. Mary's, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's, Anne Arundel, Montgomery Counties and the federal courts until her appointment to the bench. She served on the Attorney Grievance Inquiry Committee, the Judicial Nominating Commission, and the Public Defender Advisory Board prior to her appointment. She also taught paralegal studies at the College of Southern Maryland and adult education courses in the law for the St. Mary's County Board of Education.

Judge Abrams became the Administrative Judge for the St. Mary's County Circuit Court in 2005, continuing in that position until her retirement in 2018. She founded the St. Mary's County Adult Substance Abuse Recovery Court in 2009 and presided over it until her retirement. Since then, she continues to sit specially assigned and performs mediation for the Court of Special Appeals and privately with the Platt Group. She remains a member of the American Bar Association, the Maryland State Bar Association, the Women's Bar Association of Maryland, and the St. Mary's County Bar Association.

She received the Daily Record's Leadership in Law Award and the St. Mary's County Women's Commission's Lifetime Achievement Award.

Volunteer activities have included being a member of the Boards of: United Way of St. Mary's County; St. Mary's Nursing Center Foundation; Calvert Marine Museum and Society; Historic St. Mary's City Foundation; and Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust.