



Kym L. Worthy

(1956-)

Inducted: 2018 *Locale: Detroit* *Era: Contemporary* *Group: African American*
Area(s) of Achievement: Civil Rights, Law, Law Enforcement

Kym Worthy of Detroit is the current Wayne County Prosecutor and spearhead behind the Detroit Rape Kit Project. After receiving her law degree from the University of Notre Dame School of Law, Kym began her legal career at the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office. In 1989 she became the first African-American chosen as Special Assignment Prosecutor.

In 1994 Kym was elected to the Detroit Recorder's Court (Wayne County Circuit Court) and presided over hundreds of felony cases. As a judge, Kym was active on many court committees and sat on the Board of Directors for the Wayne County Criminal Advocacy Program. She was also President of the Association of Black Judges of Michigan, Master of the Bench for the American Inns of Court, and a member of the Wolverine Bar Association and the Michigan Judges Association.

On January 6th, 2004 Kym became the Wayne County Prosecutor, the first African American and female to hold this position. Through this position Kym has created numerous programs to help the city of Detroit, including the Detroit Rape Kit Project that allowed for over 11,000 forgotten rape kits to be tested. As of March 2018, the last batch of kits were sent off for testing. Currently, there have been 2,616 DNA matches and 833 potential serial rapists have been discovered because of the Detroit Rape Kit Project. The Wayne County Prosecutor's Office has obtained 130 convictions because of this project, and DNA from kits tested have been linked to crimes in 40 different states.