



2019 November Spotlight



Bio

Felicia Ford - Vice President - Trustmark National Bank is the Mortgage Loan Operations Supervisor. A native of Clarksdale, Mississippi and a graduate of Jackson State University, Ms. Ford currently serves as Director of Commercial Banks for the MBA of Mississippi. She is past president and vice president of the Mortgage Bankers Association (MBA) of Mississippi, and a former recipient of the Mortgage Banker of the Year award. Ford currently serves on the Mississippi State Extension Rankin County board as a council member and on her alma mater's Public Policy and Administration Department PPAD advisory board.

Throughout her professional career, she has served as a board member for Leadership Greater Jackson and has been an active member of the Alumni Association since 2001. The lifelong athlete combines her commitment to sustaining a healthy mind and body as a member of the United States Tennis Association (USTA). An experienced tournament official, she has served on the Mississippi (MTA) officials committee, and previously chaired the MTA Awards Committee.

Ms. Ford volunteers with Habitat for Humanity – Women Build project and Stewpot Community Services.

She is a member of New Hope Baptist Church where she serves on the finance committee and attends small group bible study.

Interview

- 1. On the weekends, where would we most likely find you?** Even my weekends are full. You can find me on the tennis courts or spending the day relaxing at home with family and friends or traveling. Worship on Sunday. My work laptop is a constant companion seven days a week, but I also squeeze some downtime in there to recharge and renew my spirit.
- 2. How did you get into the Mortgage business?** After graduating from Jackson State University, with no mortgage experience, I was fortunate enough to get a job working as a receptionist for the first Black-owned mortgage company in the state of Mississippi. You never know what doors will open, or when they will open.

3. **Name three people (or one person if that is easier) that you view as mentors?** My Mother who instilled in me the qualities of perseverance, accountability, independence, gratitude, humility, and to always work with diligence.

Other mentors are The Stamps, Alvin, his brother and sister, the late Hilda Sims Britton and Norcell Stamps, who saw something in me that moved them to provide me the opportunity to work and begin my career in this industry. They were always generous with their time and counsel whenever I needed.

4. **What keeps you up at night?** Work; did I cross every T, did I dot every I? Did I lead my team by example?
5. **What has the Mortgage Bankers Association meant to your career?** As past president of both the local and state MBA Chapters, the MBA has allowed me the opportunity to network across the broad spectrum of mortgage professionals to exchange ideas and share information.
6. **Is there anything else that you would like to tell us about yourself? (hobbies, etc.)** Family is very important to me. They keep me humble and encouraged, while being my best cheerleaders! I look forward to spending the holidays with them—they've made me who I am today. In my spare time, I work as a tennis official with the United State Tennis Association (USTA) and the International Tennis Association (ITA)