

INADMISSIBLE

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ADOPTING CHANGE



The District of Columbia celebrated its annual Adoption Day on Nov. 19, with the court scheduled to finalize nearly 30 new adoptions and honor the 180 families that finalized adoptions this year. Now in its 25th year, the event has taken on special significance for some of the judges and organizers who are themselves adoptive parents. D.C. Superior Court Judge **Zoe Bush**, the presiding Family Court judge, became an adoptive parent before she joined the bench in 1994 and said that "it's the best thing I've ever done." Honoring other families who adopt is "important because young people who age out of foster care without caring committed adults attached to them, often have negative outcomes," she said. **Judith Sandalow**, executive director of the Children's Law Center, said her own experience adopting two children out of the city's foster care system in 2000 "brought me to this work." The center coordinates pro bono legal assistance for adoptive parents. "Adoption is the law's way of creating a new family," Sandalow said. — Zoe Tillman