

Dawn N. Ison is a results-driven, forward thinking, strategic leader whose vision and execution have resulted in significant positive outcomes for the Eastern District of Michigan community. She is also an experienced, highly-skilled litigator with extensive defense and prosecution trial experience and over 30 years of litigation experience at the federal, state, and local level. Ms. Ison is a daughter of Detroit; a product of Detroit Public Schools; and, a proud graduate of Spelman College and Wayne State University Law School.

Early in her career, Ms. Ison spent 12 years as a criminal defense attorney. For 19 years, she served with pride as an Assistant United States Attorney at the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Michigan. She was assigned to the Public Corruption Unit where she directed investigations and prosecuted public corruption by public officials. Before joining the Public Corruption Unit, Ms. Ison prosecuted drug trafficking offenses at the highest level in the office's Drug Task Force Unit. Ms. Ison formerly served as the Chief of that unit, which is the largest unit in the U.S. Attorney's Office. While an Assistant United States Attorney, Ms. Ison also served as the U.S. Attorney's Office's District Election Officer for 7 years and represented the office in the federal court's alternative to prison program.

On November 12, 2021, Ms. Ison was nominated by President Joseph R. Biden to serve as United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan, and she was confirmed by the Senate on December 14, 2021. Ms. Ison was sworn in as the chief federal law enforcement officer for the District on December 21, 2021, and served as the U.S. Attorney until January 19, 2025.

Over the course of her career, Ms. Ison's leadership skills have been further recognized with her past elections as President of the Recorder's Court Bar Association; Vice President of the Women Lawyers Association, Wayne region, and Vice Chair of the National Conference of Black Lawyers, respectively. Ms. Ison has also received numerous awards and her work has been recognized by many, including but not limited to, the following:

- Spirit of Detroit Award: 2025 recipient of Spirit of Detroit Award for historic accomplishments, unwavering commitment, and dedication to the city, region, and nation.
- City of Detroit Proclamation: 2025 recipient of City of Detroit proclamation recognizing service to community, the City of Detroit and the Eastern District of Michigan.
- County of Wayne Resolution: 2025 recipient of Wayne County Proclamation for outstanding service and leadership, dedication to justice and public service, and relentless efforts to create safer and more equitable community for all.
- Leadership in Inclusion Award: 2024 recipient of America's Community Council's Leadership in Inclusion Award.
- Trailblazers Award: 2024 recipient of D. Augustus Straker Bar Association's Trailblazers Award.
- Power 50 Leaders in Southeastern Michigan: Recognized as Michigan Chronicle's 2024 Power 50 Leaders.
- Women Who Lead Award: 2022 Honoree of WJR's Women Who Lead Award.
- 2022 Newsmaker of the Year: Recognized as one of Crain's Newsmakers of the year.
- Presidential Leadership Award: 2022 recipient of National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) Presidential Leadership Award.

- Vanguard Award: 2022 recipient of Michigan Chronicle's Women of Excellence Vanguard Award.
- U.S. Attorney Award: 2019 recipient of U.S. Attorney's Outstanding Service Award.
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security Award: 2018 recipient of Inspector General Award for Excellence.
- U.S. Attorney's Award: 2016 recipient of U.S. Attorney's Superior Performance by a Litigation Team Award.
- U.S. Attorney's Award: 2010 recipient of U.S. Attorney's Outstanding Service Award.
- U.S. Department of Justice Award: 2009 recipient of National Organized Crime and Drug Task Force (OCDETF) Outstanding Investigation Operation Award.
- U.S. Department of Justice Award: 2007 recipient of National Organized Crime and Drug Task Force (OCDETF) Outstanding Asset Forfeiture Case Award.