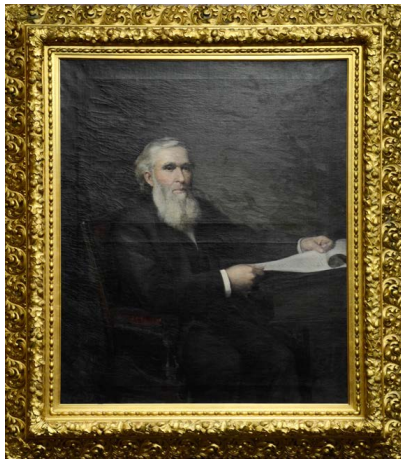
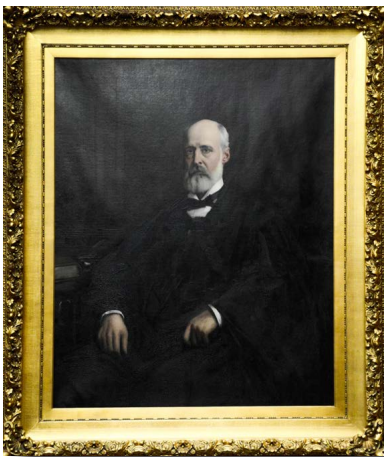


# Portraits of Justice



Judges of the United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan



# Portraits of Justice

Judges of the United States District Court  
for the Western District of Michigan



March 2013



“May it, like he, grace the Court as long as this important branch of our government endures to exemplify that justice is the constant and perpetual desire of giving to every one his right. May his life-like presence be an incentive to those who appear before this tribunal to emulate his example and practice the principles that he has displayed in the ascertainment of truth, the establishment of justice and the pursuit of happiness.”

Mr. Alfred Mack, speaking of the portrait of Chief Justice William Howard Taft,  
at the presentation of the first five portraits to the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals (1926).

## A Brief History of the Western District of Michigan

Congress created the District Court of Michigan with the Act of July 1, 1836.<sup>1</sup> At the time, Michigan was one judicial district and the court was to hold two sessions at the seat of the government which was then in Detroit. The Act of February 24, 1863,<sup>2</sup> divided Michigan into two districts with Grand Rapids designated as the judicial center of the Western District and Detroit as the center for the Eastern District. In 1878, the Western District of Michigan was divided into two divisions, Southern and Northern; Grand Rapids and Marquette were designated as the respective court seats.<sup>3</sup> The term of court for the Southern Division of the Western District was held at Grand Rapids until 1954 when court was authorized to be held in Kalamazoo and Mason.<sup>4</sup> It was not until 1961, that a session of court was authorized to be held in the state capital, Lansing,<sup>5</sup> at which time the term in Mason was eliminated.

### Western District of Michigan Succession of Article III Judges

#### First Seat

Solomon L. Withey  
Henry Franklin Severens  
George Proctor Wanty  
Loyal Edwin Knappen  
Arthur Carter Denison  
Clarence William Sessions<sup>6</sup>

#### Second Seat

Fred Morton Raymond  
Raymond Wesley Starr  
Noel P. Fox  
Richard Alan Enslen  
Paul L. Maloney

#### Third Seat

W. Wallace Kent  
Albert J. Engel, Jr.  
Wendell A. Miles  
Robert Holmes Bell

#### Fourth Seat

Benjamin F. Gibson<sup>7</sup>

#### Fifth Seat

Douglas W. Hillman  
David W. McKeague  
Janet T. Neff

#### Sixth Seat

Gordon J. Quist  
Robert J. Jonker

1. 5 Stat. 62.

2. Act of February 24, 1863, 12 Stat. 660.

3. Act of June 19, 1878, 20 Stat. 177.

4. Act of February 10, 1954, 68 Stat. 11.

5. Act of May 19, 1961, 75 Stat. 83.

6. Clarence W. Sessions' death on April 1, 1931, created the first vacancy following the expiration of the temporary judgeship authorized by the act of February 17, 1925, 43 Stat. 949, and accordingly no successor was appointed.

7. Benjamin F. Gibson's retirement on January 31, 1999, created the first vacancy following the expiration of the temporary judgeship authorized by the act of December 1, 1990, 104 Stat. 5101, and accordingly no successor was appointed.

**Western District of Michigan  
Article III Judges and Appointing President  
(listed chronologically)**

<u>Judge</u>	<u>Appointing President</u>
Solomon L. Withey . . . . .	Abraham Lincoln
Henry F. Severens . . . . .	Grover Cleveland
George P. Wanty . . . . .	William McKinley
Loyal E. Knappen . . . . .	Theodore Roosevelt
Arthur C. Denison . . . . .	William Howard Taft
Clarence W. Sessions . . . . .	William Howard Taft
Fred M. Raymond . . . . .	Calvin Coolidge
Raymond W. Starr . . . . .	Harry S. Truman
W. Wallace Kent . . . . .	Dwight D. Eisenhower
Noel P. Fox . . . . .	John F. Kennedy
Albert J. Engel, Jr. . . . .	Richard M. Nixon
Wendell A. Miles . . . . .	Richard M. Nixon
Douglas W. Hillman . . . . .	Jimmy Carter
Benjamin F. Gibson . . . . .	Jimmy Carter
Richard Alan Enslen . . . . .	Jimmy Carter
Robert Holmes Bell . . . . .	Ronald Reagan
David W. McKeague . . . . .	George H.W. Bush
Gordon J. Quist . . . . .	George H.W. Bush
Paul L. Maloney . . . . .	George W. Bush
Robert J. Jonker . . . . .	George W. Bush
Janet T. Neff . . . . .	George W. Bush

**The Portraits**

The portraits are arranged in chronological order by date of judicial commission. The end of service date reflects either the judge's retirement, resignation, or death. Judges' names are reproduced as they appear on portrait nameplates.

**Biographies**

Portions of the biographical material were adapted from *History of the Sixth Circuit: A Bicentennial Project* (Judicial Conference of the United States, 1976).

**Other Illustrations**

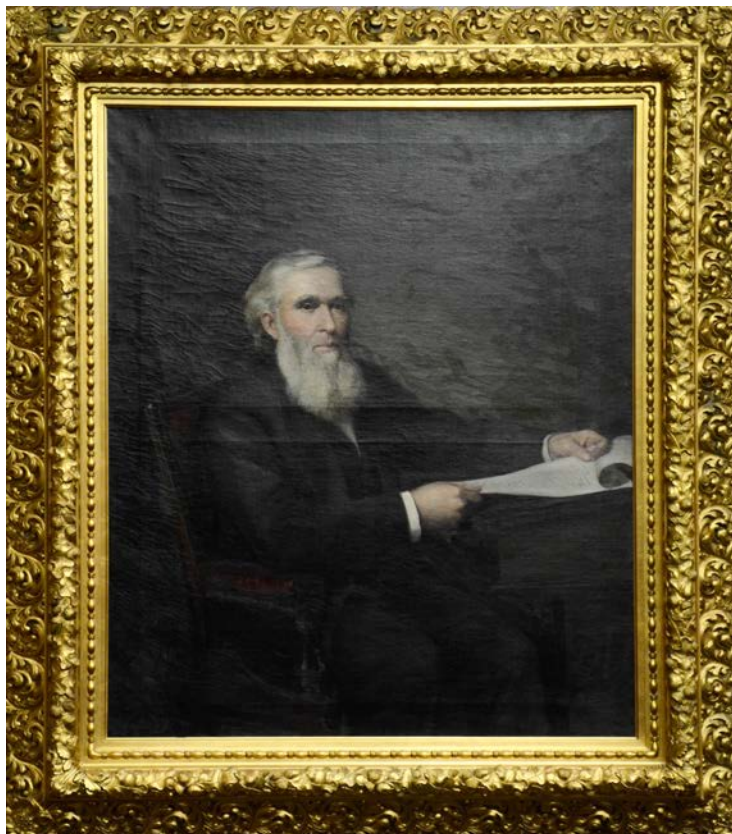
The image of the eagle printed throughout the book is a photo reproduction of an architectural detail located above the doors on the south facade of the Potter Stewart U.S. Courthouse, Cincinnati, Ohio.

# Judicial Portraits & Biographies



# Honorable Solomon L. Withey

Served 1863-1886



*Portrait Location:* Gerald R. Ford Federal Building, Grand Rapids, Michigan,  
Courtroom 601

*Portrait Artist:* Henry F. Spread, Chicago, Illinois





# Honorable Solomon L. Withey

Served 1863-1886



## Biography

Solomon L. Withey was born at St. Albans, Vermont, April 21, 1820. His family settled in Vermont during the colonial period. The Withey family emigrated to Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, from Vermont when Solomon was a boy. He attended school until the age of sixteen, when he left home and took employment in Canada as a merchant's clerk for a year.

His family moved to Grand Rapids, Michigan in 1837. On a visit home, it was decided that Withey should complete his education and enter the law profession. He returned to Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, and attended the Cuyahoga Falls Institute for one year. Returning to Grand Rapids, he taught school while studying law in the offices of Rathbone & Martin. He was admitted to the bar of Kent County Circuit Court on May 17, 1843. He practiced law in Grand Rapids from 1843-1863. He also served five years (1848-1852) as a Kent County probate judge, and was elected to a two-year term as a state senator in 1861.

The District of Michigan was divided in 1863 when President Abraham Lincoln signed the act creating two judicial districts. Lincoln nominated Withey first district judge for the Western District of Michigan on March 10, 1863; Withey received his commission the next day. Judge Withey also sat by designation in other jurisdictions. During the illness of Judge Hiram V. Willson, of the Northern District of Ohio, he held court at Cleveland; and for one year preceding the resignation of Judge Ross Wilkins, he presided over the U. S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan.

He declined a nomination to the United States Court of Appeals in 1869. George Reed wrote in *Bench and Bar of Michigan*, that Judge Withey "appreciated the compliment paid to him in being thus chosen" but that "his higher duty lay in his own State and in the performance of the duties of District judge."

While serving as a federal judge, Judge Withey was chosen as a member of the 1867 and 1873 Constitutional Conventions and appointed chairman of the Judiciary Committee at each convention. He also served as a director of the First National Bank of Grand Rapids. Judge Withey was a life-long member of the Congregational Church after joining in 1848.

Judge Withey married Marion Louise Hinsdall on December 24, 1845, and they were the parents of six children: Lewis Hinsdale, Adelaide Marion, Edward William, Chester Henry, Eleanor M., and Charles Shepard.

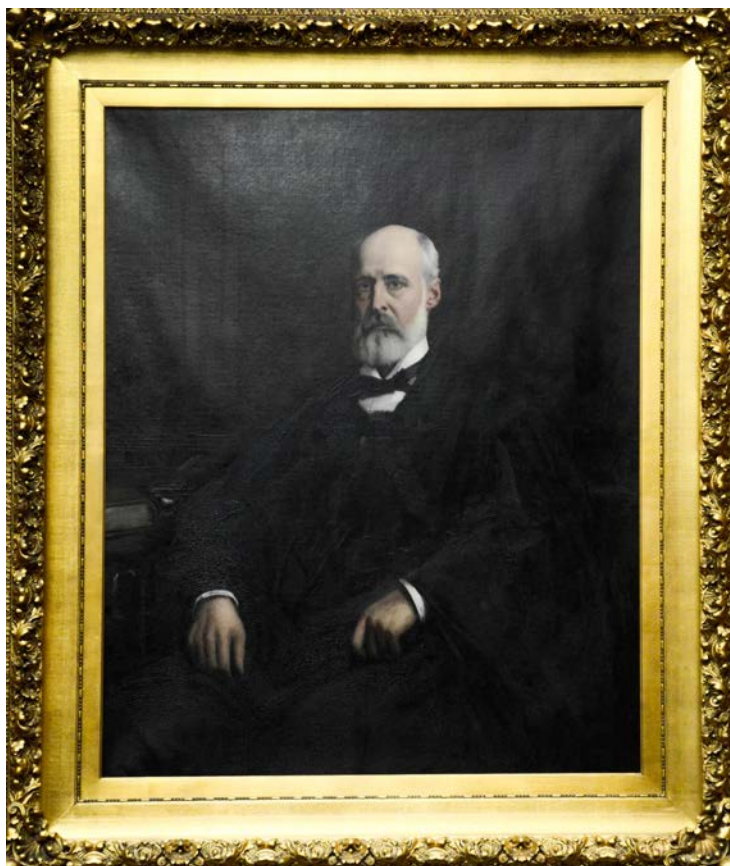
While visiting his daughter in San Diego, California, Judge Withey died April 25, 1886, and is buried in Oak Hill Cemetery, Grand Rapids, Michigan.





# Honorable Henry F. Severens

Served 1886-1900



*Portrait Location:* Gerald R. Ford Federal Building, Grand Rapids, Michigan,  
Courtroom 601



# Honorable Henry F. Severens

Served 1886-1900



## Biography

Henry Franklin Severens was born in Rockingham, Vermont, on May 11, 1835, the son of a farmer. He received his early education in the public schools of Vermont and then entered Middlebury College. He read law in the office of U.S. Attorney Henry E. Stoughton, and was admitted to the Bar in 1859.

Judge Severens moved to Three Rivers, Michigan in 1860 and served as Prosecuting Attorney for St. Joseph County. In 1865 he moved to Kalamazoo and began the private practice of law. At various times in his career prior to his appointment to the federal bench he ran for election to Congress, the Michigan Senate and the Michigan Supreme Court.

President Grover Cleveland nominated Judge Severens as United States District Judge for the Western District of Michigan on May 14, 1886; he received his commission on May 25, 1886. He was nominated by President William McKinley to the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit on February 6, 1900. Severens received his commission on February 20, 1900, and served until his retirement on October 3, 1911.

Judge Severens was married twice. His first wife was Rhoda Ranney; his second wife was Sarah Clarissa Ryan. He had two children by his second marriage. Judge Severens died on June 8, 1923.





# Honorable George P. Wanty

Served 1900-1906



*Portrait Location:* Gerald R. Ford Federal Building, Grand Rapids, Michigan,  
Courtroom 601



# Honorable George P. Wanty

## Served 1900-1906



## Biography

George Proctor Wanty, son of Samuel and Elizabeth (Proctor) Wanty, was born on March 12, 1856, in Ann Arbor, Michigan. His parents had immigrated to the United States in 1853, settling first in Brooklyn, then moving to Detroit, and finally to Ann Arbor in 1855. His primary and secondary education was received in the common and high schools of Ann Arbor.

After graduating from high school, Wanty became a bank clerk in Ann Arbor, and later worked as a bookkeeper for an iron manufacturing company at Bay City, Michigan. After several years of working in Bay City, he took his savings and entered law school at the University of Michigan, graduating in 1878. One of the original directors of the Grand Rapids Law Library, Wanty was admitted to the State Bar of Michigan on May 9, 1878.

Wanty entered the practice of law in Grand Rapids, Michigan, in 1878, as a founding partner of the firm Fletcher & Wanty. After Fletcher's death, Loyal E. Knappen joined the firm and together they practiced law until 1900 when Wanty was appointed to the federal bench. In 1894, Wanty was elected president of the State Bar of Michigan. It was said of him that "his executive management of the affairs of the association was able; his duties as presiding officer at its meetings were discharged with ability, dignity and impartiality."

On March 7, 1900, President William McKinley nominated Wanty to the United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan. Wanty received his commission on March 13, 1900, and served on the federal bench until his death in London, England, on July 9, 1906. He was buried at Oak Hill Cemetery in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Wanty married Dr. Emma Nichols in Chicago, June 22, 1886. She was an associate of Dr. William H. Byford and a lecturer at the Women's Medical College in Chicago. The Wantys had two children, Helen and Thomas.







# Honorable Loyal E. Knappen

Served 1906-1910



*Portrait Location:* Gerald R. Ford Federal Building, Grand Rapids, Michigan,  
Courtroom 601

*Portrait Artist:* Mathias J. Alten, Grand Rapids, Michigan



# Honorable Loyal E. Knappen

Served 1906-1910



## Biography

Loyal Edwin Knappen, son of Edwin and Sarah M. (Nevins) Knappen, was born January 27, 1854, in Hastings, Michigan. Of Scotch-Irish descent, the Knappens had immigrated to Michigan in the 1830s. Knappen attended Union School in Hastings until he reached the age of fifteen. He then entered the Literary Department of the University of Michigan, from which he graduated with honors in 1873, receiving his M.A. in 1876. The University bestowed an honorary LL.D. upon Knappen in 1913.

Six months after receiving his A. B., Knappen became assistant principal of Hastings High School, but deciding that teaching was not his life work, he began studying law in the office of the Honorable James A. Sweezey. Immediately after passing the Michigan bar examination in 1875, he began his legal career in partnership with his preceptor in Hastings, Michigan. The partnership was dissolved in 1878 when Knappen and his brother, Charles M. Knappen, became law partners. While in private practice, he also served as Prosecuting Attorney of Barry County, Michigan, from 1879 to 1883. In 1880, Knappen became a United States Commissioner for the United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan. After the partnership with his brother ended in 1883, he formed a partnership with Christopher H. Van Arman, under the firm name of Knappen & Van Arman.

In 1888, Knappen moved to Grand Rapids and formed a new partnership with William J. Stuart, under the firm name of Stuart, Knappen & Van Arman with offices in Grand Rapids and Hastings. Later Charles M. Weaver was admitted to the firm to handle the Hastings office, but left after a year and the Hastings office was closed. Knappen served as Assistant Prosecuting Attorney for Kent County for three years from 1888 to 1890. The firm of Stuart & Knappen dissolved in 1893 and Knappen joined the Taggart, Knappen & Denison law firm.

On December 3, 1906, President Theodore Roosevelt nominated Knappen to the United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan; Knappen received his commission on December 10, 1906. He served four years until President William Howard Taft nominated him to the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit on January 17, 1910. He received his commission on January 31, 1910. Judge Knappen retired on April 15, 1924.

Active in professional and community organizations, Judge Knappen was a member of the Grand Rapids Bar Association, serving as president in 1905-1906, and a member of the State Bar of Michigan. For many years he was a Mason and a member of the Columbia Chapter of Grand Rapids. He belonged to the Eureka Lodge No. 2, Knights of Pythias of Grand Rapids. While he lived in Hastings, he was Chancellor Commander of the Knights of Pythias Lodge. He was a member of the Sons of the American Revolution and the Peninsular Club of Grand Rapids.

An early advocate of public education, Judge Knappen was a member of the Hastings Board of Education, serving as its president for one year. He continued his interest in education when he moved to Grand Rapids in 1888, serving as a member of the Grand Rapids Board of Education. In April 1903, he was elected to the Board of Regents of the University of Michigan. After taking his seat the following January, Knappen became head of the Committee on the Department of Law, but resigned from the Board in 1911 before his term ended.

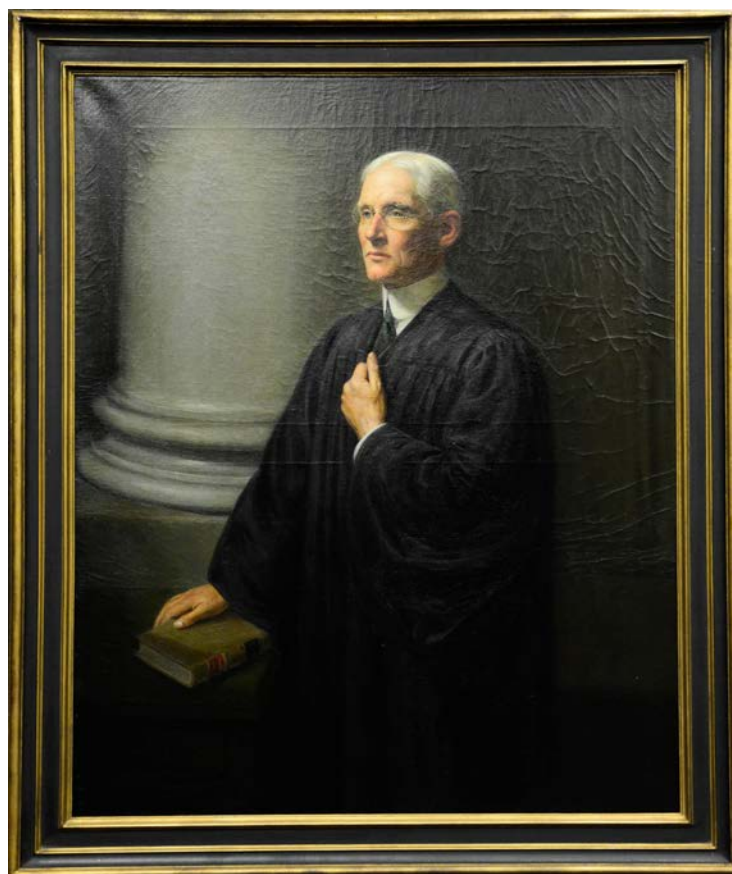
On October 23, 1876, Knappen married Amelia Isabelle Kenyon. They had three children: Stuart Edwin, Fred Mason and Florence (Mrs. Arthur D. Perry). Judge Knappen died May 14, 1930.





# Honorable Arthur C. Denison

Served 1910-1911



*Portrait Location:* Gerald R. Ford Federal Building, Grand Rapids, Michigan,  
Courtroom 601





# Honorable Arthur C. Denison

Served 1910-1911



## Biography

Arthur Carter Denison, son of Julius Coe and Cornelia (Carter) Denison, was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan on November 10, 1861. His parents emigrated from New York in 1855 and settled on 160 acres in Paris township, near Grand Rapids.

Denison received his early education in the public schools of Grand Rapids, then entered law school at the University of Michigan. He was graduated with a LL.B. in 1883 and was admitted to the State Bar of Michigan on January 15, 1885. The honorary degree of LL.D. was conferred upon Judge Denison by the University of Michigan in 1916.

Denison's early experience as an attorney was gained in the office of Edward Taggart with whom he formed a partnership in 1886, under the firm name of Taggart & Denison. The Grand Rapids law firm was expanded in 1900 to include Loyal E. Knappen, and became Taggart, Knappen & Denison. Later, Denison was associated with Charles M. and Hugh E. Wilson, under the firm name of Taggart, Denison & Wilson.

In 1903, Denison served as president of the Grand Rapids Bar Association. He also served two terms as president of the State Bar of Michigan (1906-1907). In 1904-1905, he was a member of the Grand Rapids Board of Education and served as its president in the latter year. He was also a member of the Peninsular Club, the Kent Country Club, and an attendant at the Park Congregational Church.

On January 17, 1910, President William Howard Taft nominated Denison as United States District Judge for the Western District of Michigan. Denison received his commission on January 31, 1910. Judge Denison was nominated to the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit by President Taft on February 25, 1911, receiving his commission on March 2, 1911. In 1925, while a member of the Sixth Circuit, Judge Denison was appointed by President Calvin Coolidge to the Aircraft Board to study the feasibility of a national air force. On December 31, 1931, Judge Denison resigned from the bench.

Having attained the age of seventy, Judge Denison relinquished his position on the bench and resumed the practice of law as a partner in the Cleveland law firm of Baker, Hostetler & Patterson. "In taking this step he was influenced by the thought that he had taken his place upon the bench somewhat early in life, and had reached the age of retirement, and might properly give attention in the few remaining years to making further provision for his family." When he died May 27, 1942, at Cleveland, Ohio, Judge Denison was still associated with the firm.

In 1886, Judge Denison married Susie L. Goodrich of Grand Rapids. Before her death in 1896, they became the parents of three sons: John Walter, Donald Goodrich and Arthur Curtis Denison. In 1898, he married Julie Barlow, also of Grand Rapids; one child was born of this marriage, Ruth Barlow Denison.





# Honorable Clarence W. Sessions

Served 1911-1931



*Portrait Location:* Gerald R. Ford Federal Building, Grand Rapids, Michigan,  
Courtroom 601



# Honorable Clarence W. Sessions

Served 1911-1931



## Biography

Clarence William Sessions was born in the township of North Plains, in Ionia County, Michigan, on February 8, 1859, to William and Julia (Jennings) Sessions. He attended district schools, graduating from Ionia High School in 1877. He attended the University of Michigan, graduating from its Literary Department in 1881.

After a short time in the lumber business with his father, Sessions studied law under the able tuition and preceptorship of Mitchell, Bell & McGarry, attorneys in Ionia. He was admitted to the Michigan State Bar in 1884 and entered into practice in Muskegon, Michigan. For five years he was a member of one of the largest law firms in western Michigan, Nims, Hoyt, Erwin, Sessions & Vanderwerp. A Republican, Sessions served as City Attorney of Muskegon for six terms, and in 1906 was elected Circuit Judge of the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit of Michigan.

On February 25, 1911, President William Howard Taft nominated Sessions to the United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan to succeed Judge Arthur C. Denison, who had been elevated to the U. S. Court of Appeals. Sessions received his commission on March 2, 1911. As district judge, Sessions won acclaim for conduct of the Newberry Senatorial Election scandal case. In 1925, Congress created a temporary judgeship for the Western District because of Judge Sessions's ill health and the heavy work load of the district. Judge Sessions continued to hold court with the assistance of the newly appointed Judge Fred M. Raymond until illness made it impossible to continue. Sessions died on April 1, 1931. Funeral services were held at the Masonic Temple in Grand Rapids with internment in Highland Park Cemetery in Ionia, Michigan.

Judge Sessions was a thirty-third degree Scottish Rite Mason, as well as, a member of the Knights of Maccabees, the Independent Order of Foresters, the Modern Woodmen of America and the Ancient Order of United Workmen.

In 1882, Sessions married Mary S. Foote. They were the parents of two children: Marjorie (Sessions) Bennett and Clarence Nathaniel Sessions. Mrs. Sessions died on December 10, 1925; in 1927, Judge Sessions married Mary (Mrs. Lovell) Higginbotham. Judge Sessions died on April 1, 1931, in Grand Rapids.





# Honorable Fred M. Raymond

Served 1925-1946



*Portrait Location:* Gerald R. Ford Federal Building, Grand Rapids, Michigan,  
Courtroom 601

*Portrait Presented:* 1947, by the Grand Rapids Bar Association

*Portrait Artist:* Armand J. Merizon, Grand Rapids, Michigan



# Honorable Fred M. Raymond

Served 1925-1946



## Biography

**F**red Morton Raymond, son of Joseph and Elizabeth S. (McLennan) Raymond, was born March 22, 1876, in Berlin (now Marne), near Grand Rapids, Michigan. After attending the public schools of Berlin, Raymond worked his way through the University of Michigan, receiving his LL.B. from the University of Michigan Law School in 1899.

That same year, he joined the Grand Rapids law firm of Hatch & Wilson after passing the Michigan bar examination. In 1923, Raymond became a partner in the firm of Jewell, Raymond & Face.

President Calvin Coolidge nominated Raymond to the United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan on December 8, 1925, for the second time, having given him a recess appointment on May 8, 1925. Raymond received his commission on December 18, 1925. Judge Raymond never set out to become a federal judge. He once described himself as an “astonished and non-political lawyer who neither sought nor strongly desired” to be appointed but because of “the untimely passing of a President of the United States, the daytime doze of a Vice President during a tie vote on confirmation of an Attorney General, and a sudden fatal illness of the leading aspirant” became a federal judge.

Active in professional and community organizations, Judge Raymond was a member of the American Bar Association, the State Bar of Michigan, and the Grand Rapids Bar Association, serving as president of the latter 1923-1924. He served as president of the Berlin Board of Education and was a member of the Rotary Club, the Torch Club, and the Spring Hills Country Club. He was a thirty-third degree Scottish Rite Mason. He was a member of York Lodge, F & AM 410, DeWitt Clinton Consistory and Saladin Temple of the Shrine.

On December 30, 1902, Raymond married Mabel H. Kenworthy. They were the parents of two children: Elizabeth Estell (Raymond) Kraber and Russell Kenworthy Raymond. Judge Raymond died on February 6, 1946, and was interred at Graceland Mausoleum in Grand Rapids.







# Honorable Raymond W. Starr

Served 1946-1968

Chief Judge 1954-1961



*Portrait Location:* Gerald R. Ford Federal Building, Grand Rapids, Michigan,  
Courtroom 601

*Portrait Artist:* LaClaire Studio, Grand Rapids, Michigan



# Honorable Raymond W. Starr

Served 1946-1968 Chief Judge 1954-1961



## Biography

**R**aymond Wesley Starr, son of John Travis and Jeannette Amanda (Blackman) Starr was born on August 24, 1888, in Emmet County, Michigan. After graduating from Harbor Springs High School, he attended the Ferris Institute, now Ferris State College, graduating in 1907.

After receiving his LL.B. from the University of Michigan Law School in 1910, Starr moved to Grand Rapids and became associated with the law firm of Hyde, Earle & Thornton. In 1917, he became a partner in the law firm of Wicks, Fuller & Starr until 1933, when he joined his brother, James A. Starr, to form the law firm of Starr & Starr.

In addition to being an active and successful trial and consulting lawyer, Starr found time to work on civic, charitable and social service boards and committees. In 1911, he pioneered a legal aid clinic for persons unable to pay for legal services. He also served on the boards of the Michigan Children's Aid Society, the Michigan Welfare League, and the D. A. Blodgett Home for Children, of which he served as president.

Entering public life in 1936 when elected Michigan Attorney General, Starr played an important role in settling the sit-down strikes at the automobile plants in Detroit and Flint. He served as Attorney General until 1938. In May of 1941, Michigan Governor Murray D. Van Wagoner appointed Starr to the Michigan Supreme Court to succeed Justice Thomas McAllister, who had been appointed to the U. S. Court of Appeals. Starr rose to the position of Chief Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court in 1945.

On July 3, 1946, President Harry S. Truman nominated Judge Starr to the United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan. Starr received his commission on July 25, 1946. He served as Chief Judge from June 25, 1954, until August 15, 1961, when he left active service to become a Senior District Judge. Judge Starr continued to serve until his death on November 2, 1968.

In addition to his judicial and legal duties and affiliations, including membership in the American Bar Association, the American Judicature Society, and the Grand Rapids and Michigan State Bars, Judge Starr was active in numerous professional and community affairs. In 1922, Starr became a Master Mason in York Lodge No. 410, Grand Rapids and received a life membership in 1962. He was a member of the "Little Hoover" and Michigan Crime Commissions, and a director of the Michigan Historical Commission, the International Association of Torch Clubs and many commissions of the State of Michigan. He was also a member of the Scottish Rite Bodies of the Valley of Grand Rapids in 1946 and was honored by being created a Sovereign Grand Inspector General, thirty-third degree, honorary member of the Supreme Council in 1955.

Judge Starr was the recipient of many honors, including an honorary LL.D. from the Detroit College of Law (1938), an honorary J.D. from Ferris State College (1945), an honorary J.D. from the University of Michigan (1910), and the Distinguished Service Award from the Michigan Education Association in recognition of his effective contributions to education.

On June 8, 1912, Starr married Minnie Eseleen Johnson of Grand Rapids, Michigan. They were the parents of two children: John Gerrit Starr, and Barbara (Mrs. Samuel A. Schreckengaust, Jr.). Judge Starr died on November 2, 1968, in Grand Rapids.





# Honorable W. Wallace Kent

Served 1954-1970

Chief Judge 1961-1970



*Portrait Location:* Federal Building Courtroom, Kalamazoo, Michigan

*Portrait Presented:* February 8, 1974, by the Kalamazoo County Bar Association

*Portrait Presentation:* 489 F.2d 1 (1974)





# Honorable W. Wallace Kent

Served 1954-1970 Chief Judge 1961-1970



## Biography

Wallace Kent was born on May 1, 1916, in Galesburg, Michigan, the son of Harold S. and Alice W. Kent. He graduated from Kalamazoo Central High in 1933. In 1937 he received an A.B. degree from Western Michigan University. He obtained his legal education at the University of Michigan Law School where he was an editor of the *Michigan Law Review* and was elected to the Order of the Coif. He graduated with honors with a J.D. degree in 1940.

He served as an assistant Kalamazoo County prosecutor and Friend of the Court from 1941 until 1944. He then entered the law firm of Mason, Stratton and Kent in Kalamazoo. On February 2, 1945, he was appointed County Prosecutor to fulfill an unexpired term but returned to his private practice in 1946. Judge Kent was nominated to the United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan by President Dwight D. Eisenhower on May 10, 1954. Kent received his commission on June 10, 1954. He became Chief Judge of the Court in 1961 and had offices in Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, and Marquette. Judge Kent was nominated to the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit on December 8, 1970, by President Richard M. Nixon, and received his commission on December 18, 1970.

Judge Kent was very active in Masonic bodies. In 1960, he served as the Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of F. & A.M. of Michigan, the highest Masonic office in Michigan. He served from 1961 to 1971 as Grand Treasurer for that Lodge. In 1962 he was created a Sovereign Grand Inspector General thirty-third degree of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry; in 1967 was crowned an Active Member of the Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite. Judge Kent was active in community affairs, devoting many hours of service to the Community Chest, the Boy Scouts, the Family Service Center, and the Legal Aid Bureau. He was an active member of the Episcopal Church, Torch Club and Outlook Club.

In 1940 Judge Kent married LaVerne Fredlund. They had six children, three sons and three daughters. On May 28, 1973, Judge Kent died at the age of 57 in Kalamazoo.

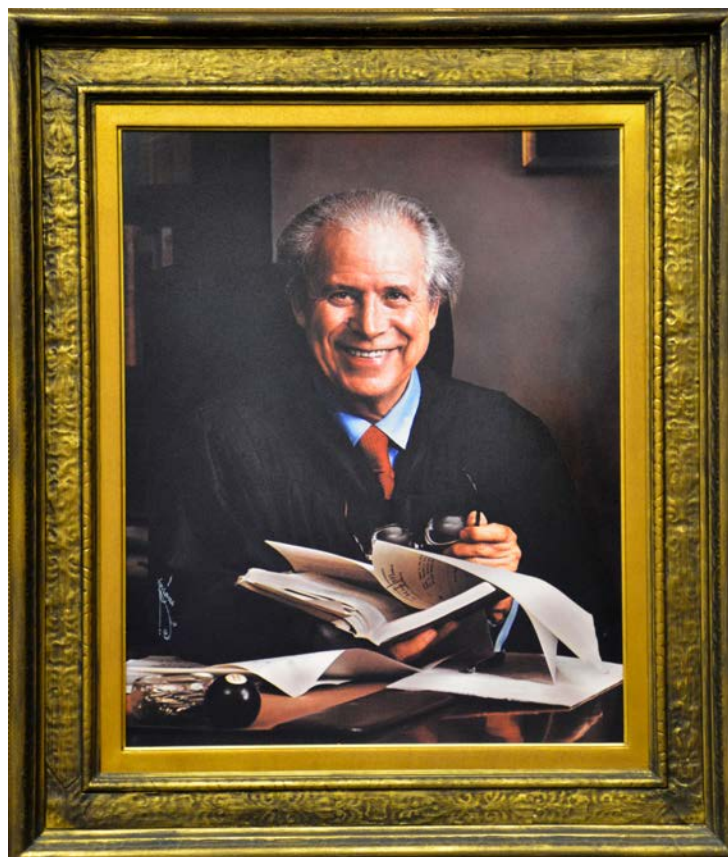




# Honorable Noel P. Fox

Served 1962-1987

Chief Judge 1971-1979



*Portrait Location:* Gerald R. Ford Federal Building, Grand Rapids, Michigan,  
Courtroom 699

*Portrait Artist:* LaClaire Studio, Grand Rapids, Michigan



# Honorable Noel P. Fox

Served 1962-1987 Chief Judge 1971-1979



## Biography

Noel Peter Fox was born on August 30, 1910, in Kalamazoo, Michigan, the son of Charles P. and Carolyn (Kokx) Fox. He received his elementary and secondary education in Muskegon, Michigan, then entered Marquette University, where he received his Ph.D. in 1933 and a J.D., *cum laude*, in 1935.

After being admitted to the Michigan Bar, Fox returned to Muskegon and practiced law with the law firm of Bunker, Rogoski & Dunn from 1935 to 1937. He also served as the chief assistant to the Muskegon County Prosecutor. He later went into private practice until Michigan Governor Murray D. Van Wagoner appointed him to the State Labor Mediation Board in 1941.

In 1942, Fox joined the U.S. Navy and volunteered for combat duty during World War II. When it was learned that he had experience in mediating labor relations, he was assigned to a top-level government task force that settled labor disputes.

Following the war, Fox returned to his legal practice and continued to handle labor mediation cases. He helped end a 100-day strike against Chrysler and other strikes at Detroit Edison and the Detroit Street Railway, before an unsuccessful bid for the office of Michigan Secretary of State in 1948. Gov. G. Mennen Williams appointed Fox as Circuit Judge for the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit of Michigan in 1951; he subsequently won election and re-election until his appointment to the federal bench.

President John F. Kennedy nominated Fox to the United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan on July 12, 1962; Fox received his commission on July 31, 1962. Judge Fox served as Chief Judge from 1971 to 1979. On December 31, 1979, he assumed senior status. As a federal judge, he served as a member of the Trial Technique Committee of the Judicial Conference of the United States and was president of the District Judges' Association of the Sixth Circuit. Judge Fox was a member of the American, Federal and Michigan State Bar Associations, and of the American Judicature Society.

Judge Fox was married to the former Dorothy Ann McCormick. They were the parents of three children: Maureen, Noel and Virginia. On June 3, 1987, Judge Fox died in Grand Rapids, Michigan. A funeral Mass was held at St. Thomas the Apostle Church in Grand Rapids; burial followed in St. Mary's Cemetery, Muskegon, Michigan.





# Honorable Albert Joseph Engel, Jr.

Served 1970-1973



*Portrait Location:* Gerald R. Ford Federal Building, Grand Rapids, Michigan,  
Courtroom 699

*Portrait Presented:* August 8, 1988, by the Western Michigan Federal Bar Association

*Portrait Artist:* LaClaire Studio, Grand Rapids, Michigan





# Honorable Albert Joseph Engel, Jr.

Served 1970-1973



## Biography

Albert Joseph Engel, Jr., son of the late Congressman Albert J. Engel and Bertha (Bielby) Engel, was born on March 21, 1924, in Lake City, Michigan. His early education was obtained in the public schools of Lake City and Muskegon, Michigan, and Washington, D.C. In September, 1941, he attended the University of Maryland, but left in June of the next year and enrolled at the University of Michigan.

Engel left the University in February 1943, and entered the United States Army as a private in the Infantry, but was transferred to the Ordnance Department. He graduated at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, where he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant and went on to command his own bomb disposal unit in the European Theater, seeing action in England, France, Belgium and Germany. He was discharged in April, 1946, after attaining the rank of Captain.

Following his wartime service, Engel returned to the University of Michigan and received a bachelor's degree in political science. In 1950, he earned his LL.B. degree from the University of Michigan Law School where he was a member of Phi Delta Phi and a senior judge in Law School Court. He was admitted to the State Bar of Michigan on May 31, 1951, and to practice before the United States District Court in 1952.

After a year in Washington, D.C., as administrative assistant to Congresswoman Ruth Thompson, Engel returned to Michigan to practice law in what became the law firm of Engle and Engel until his election to the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit of Michigan in 1966.

On December 15, 1970, President Richard M. Nixon nominated Engel to the United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan. Engel received his commission on December 18, 1970. He was nominated to the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit by President Nixon on December 5, 1973; receiving his commission on December 19, 1973. Judge Engel became Chief Judge of the Sixth Circuit on April 1, 1988, and served until October 1, 1989, when he assumed senior status. The U. S. Courts Library in Grand Rapids was officially named the Albert J. Engel U. S. Courts Library on December 19, 2003.

Judge Engel holds memberships in the American Bar Association, the Federal Bar Association, the American Judicature Society, the Grand Rapids Bar Association, and the State Bar of Michigan. He is an active member of the Episcopal Church, and the Torch Club.

Judge Engel married Eloise Ruth Bull of Muskegon, Michigan, on October 18, 1952. They have four children, Albert J., III, Katherine Ann, James Robert, and Mary Elizabeth (Engel) Pineda, and five grandchildren.





# Honorable Wendell A. Miles

Served 1974-2008

Chief Judge 1979-1986



*Portrait Location:* Gerald R. Ford Federal Building, Grand Rapids, Michigan,  
Courtroom 699

*Portrait Presented:* August 8, 1988, by the Western Michigan Federal Bar Association

*Portrait Artist:* LaClaire Studio, Grand Rapids, Michigan



# Honorable Wendell A. Miles

Served 1974-2008 Chief Judge 1979-1986



## Biography

Wendell A. Miles, son of Fred T. and Dena Del (Alverson) Miles, was born on April 17, 1916, in Holland, Michigan. He received an A.B. degree from Hope College in 1938 and an M. A. from the University of Wyoming in 1939. He received a J.D. from the University of Michigan School of Law in 1942.

After graduation from law school, Miles entered the U. S. Army, obtaining the rank of Captain. Two months after the Normandy invasion in 1944, Miles served in France, Belgium and Germany interviewing German POWs. In 1945 he was assigned as a JAG officer in Marseille and was later transferred to Strasbourg, France, as a U.S. claims and liaison officer. In 1947 he returned to Holland, Michigan, and began a law practice, Miles and Miles, with his father. In 1960 Miles joined the firm Miles, Mika, Meyers, Beckett and Jones. In 1962 he was appointed special counsel for the City of Grand Rapids, Michigan; he also served as special counsel for the Grand Rapids School Board from 1961 to 1970 and Ferris State College from 1965 to 1970.

Prior to his appointment to the federal bench, Miles served as Prosecuting Attorney of Ottawa County, Michigan from 1949 to 1953, United States Attorney for the Western District of Michigan from 1953 to 1960, and Circuit Judge for the Twentieth Judicial Circuit of Michigan from 1970 to 1974.

President Richard M. Nixon nominated Miles to the United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan on March 29, 1974; Miles received his commission on April 17, 1974. He served as Chief Judge from 1979 to 1986. On May 6, 1986, Judge Miles assumed senior status but continued to serve the Court full time. He served a seven-year term as a member of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, having been appointed by the Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court in 1989.

Judge Miles was twice appointed by the Governor to the Michigan Higher Education Facilities Commission, serving as its vice chairman for eight years. He served as an adjunct professor of American and English Constitutional History at Hope College. Judge Miles was the recipient of two honorary degrees, having received an LL.D. from the Detroit College of Law in 1979 and an LL.D. from Hope College in 1980.

Judge Miles is a member of the American, Federal, Michigan and Grand Rapids Bar Associations and the American Judicature Society. He has served on the Holland Board of Education and is a thirty-second degree Mason. On June 8, 1946, in Strasbourg, France, Miles married the former Mariette Bruckert. He has three children.





# Honorable Benjamin F. Gibson

Served 1979-1999

Chief Judge 1991-1995



*Portrait Location:* Gerald R. Ford Federal Building, Grand Rapids, Michigan,  
Courtroom 699

*Portrait Artist:* LaClaire Studio, Grand Rapids, Michigan





# Honorable Benjamin F. Gibson

Served 1979-1999

Chief Judge 1991-1995



## Biography

**B**enjamin F. Gibson, son of Eddie and Pearl Gibson, was born in Dallas County, Alabama, on July 13, 1931. Following graduation in 1948 from Miller High School in Detroit, Michigan, he entered the United States Army, serving until 1950. While working full time, Gibson attended Wayne State University and graduated with a B.S. degree in business administration in 1955.

Immediately after receiving his undergraduate degree, Gibson began his legal education while working as an accountant for the City of Detroit and the Detroit Edison Company. In 1960, he received a J.D. degree, with distinction, from the Detroit College of Law, graduating fifth in his class. Gibson continued his legal education through post-graduate work in labor law at Wayne State University Law School and Michigan State University. He was a member of Beta Gamma, a fraternity for honor graduates, and Sigma Pi Phi, a fraternity for outstanding black college graduates. Gibson received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the Detroit College of Law in 1982.

Gibson began his legal career by serving as an assistant attorney general for the State of Michigan from 1961 to 1963. After working as the first African-American appointed assistant prosecuting attorney in Ingham County, Michigan, Gibson joined the Lansing, Michigan, law firm of Dunning & Gibson, practicing from 1964 to 1978. In 1979, he became the first African-American professor of law at the Thomas M. Cooley Law School.

On July 12, 1979, President Jimmy Carter nominated Gibson to the United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan; Gibson received his commission on September 26, 1976. He was not only the first African-American federal judge in the Western District of Michigan, but also the district's first African-American Chief Judge, serving from February 14, 1991 to April 30, 1995. His service as a judge included membership on the Sixth Circuit Judicial Council and on the Automation and Technology Committee of the United States Judicial Conference. On July 13, 1996, he assumed senior status.

Gibson's many professional, civic, and public service activities included membership with the Federal Judges Association, the Grand Rapids and Michigan Bar Association. Gibson has served on the boards of Thomas M. Cooley Law School, the Y.M.C.A. in Kent County, Michigan, Butterworth Hospital, the Grand Rapids Foundation and the United Way of Kent County, Michigan. Judge Gibson received the following awards: Award of Recognition from Harvard Law School; Program of Instruction for Lawyers; Outstanding Leadership Award from Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity; Distinguished Volunteer Service Award for Community Service and the Outstanding Service Award from the Community of Western District of Michigan.

Gibson and his wife, Lucille Nelson Gibson, of Memphis, Tennessee, were married on June 23, 1951. They are the parents of six children: Charlotte, Linda, Gerald, Gail, Carol and Laura.

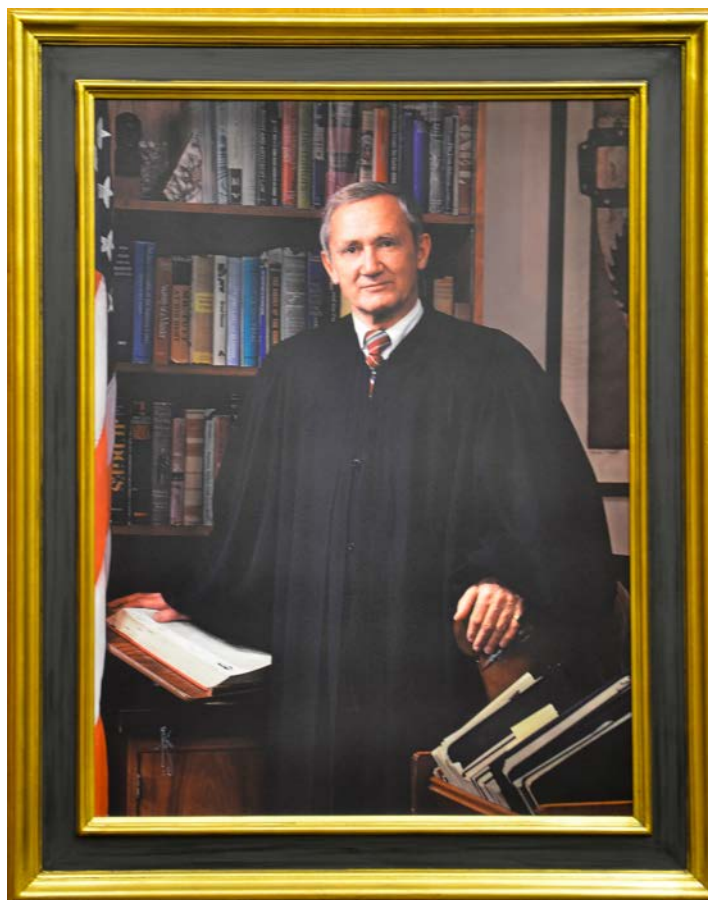




# Honorable Douglas W. Hillman

Served 1979-2002

Chief Judge 1986-1991



*Portrait Location:* Gerald R. Ford Federal Building, Grand Rapids, Michigan,  
Courtroom 699

*Portrait Artist:* LaClaire Studio, Grand Rapids, Michigan



# Honorable Douglas W. Hillman

Served 1979-2002 Chief Judge 1986-1991



## Biography

Douglas Woodruff Hillman, son of Lemuel Serrell and Dorothy (Woodruff) Hillman, was born February 15, 1922, in Grand Rapids, Michigan. A graduate of Grand Rapids Central High School, he attended the University of Michigan for three years until World War II broke out and interrupted his education.

In 1942, Hillman joined the United States Army Air Corps. He was a B-24 Liberator bomber pilot who flew 48 bombing missions over occupied Europe and Nazi Germany, for which he received the Distinguished Flying Cross and an Air Medal. After separating from the Army as a First Lieutenant, Hillman returned to the University of Michigan to study law in a combined graduate-undergraduate curriculum. He received a B.A. in 1946 and LL.B. in 1948.

After passing the Michigan bar examination, Hillman practiced law in Grand Rapids for the next 31 years, first as an associate with Lily, Luyendyk & Snyder. In 1953, he became a partner in the law firm of Luyendyk, Hainer, Hillman, Karr & Dutcher. In 1965 he became the senior partner in Hillman, Baxter & Hammond.

On July 12, 1979, President Jimmy Carter nominated Hillman to the United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan. Hillman received his commission on September 26, 1979, and opened his chambers at the Federal Building in Grand Rapids. Judge Hillman served as the Chief Judge of the Western District from April 18, 1986 until February 13, 1991, when he assumed senior status.

Judge Hillman was a faculty member of the National Institute of Trial Advocacy (1971); a lecturer at the Institute for Continuing Legal Education (ICLE), Ann Arbor (1979-1987); and a founder and instructor of the Hillman Advocacy Program, sponsored by the West Michigan Chapter of the Federal Bar Association, and the Judges of the United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan. The workshop was established in 1981 to help young lawyers develop trial skills through hands on experience. In 1993, Judge Hillman traveled to Russia to demonstrate and explain to Russian lawyers and judges the American practice of trial by jury.

In addition to his judicial and legal duties and affiliations, including memberships in the American, Michigan, Grand Rapids, and Federal Bar Associations, Judge Hillman was a Life Member of the American Bar Foundation and a member of the Michigan and Grand Rapids Bar Foundations. Other professional affiliations included the American College of Trial Lawyers, the International Academy of Trial Lawyers, the International Society of Barristers, the International Association of Insurance Counsel, the National Board of Trial Advocacy, and the State Bar of Michigan United States Court Committee. As a member of the Federal Judges Association, he served on the Board of Directors from 1990-1996. He was chairman of the Grand Rapids Human Relations Commission from 1963-1966, a member of the Committee of Visitors for the University of Michigan Law School, president of the Family Service Association in 1967, and chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Fountain Street Church from 1970-1972.

Judge Hillman was honored with the ACLU Annual Civil Liberties Award in 1970, the Hon. Raymond W. Fox Advocacy Award (1989), the Champion of Justice Award by the State Bar of Michigan in 1990, the Distinguished Alumni Award from Central High School in 1986, the Service to the Profession Award from the Federal Bar Association in 1991, and named one of "Michigan's 25 Most Respected Judges" by the *Michigan Lawyers Weekly* in 1990. The Young Lawyers Section of the State Bar of Michigan awarded Judge Hillman the Professional and Community Service Award in 1996.

Judge Hillman married Sally Jones on September 13, 1944. They were the parents of two children, Drusilla and Clayton. Judge Hillman died on February 1, 2007.

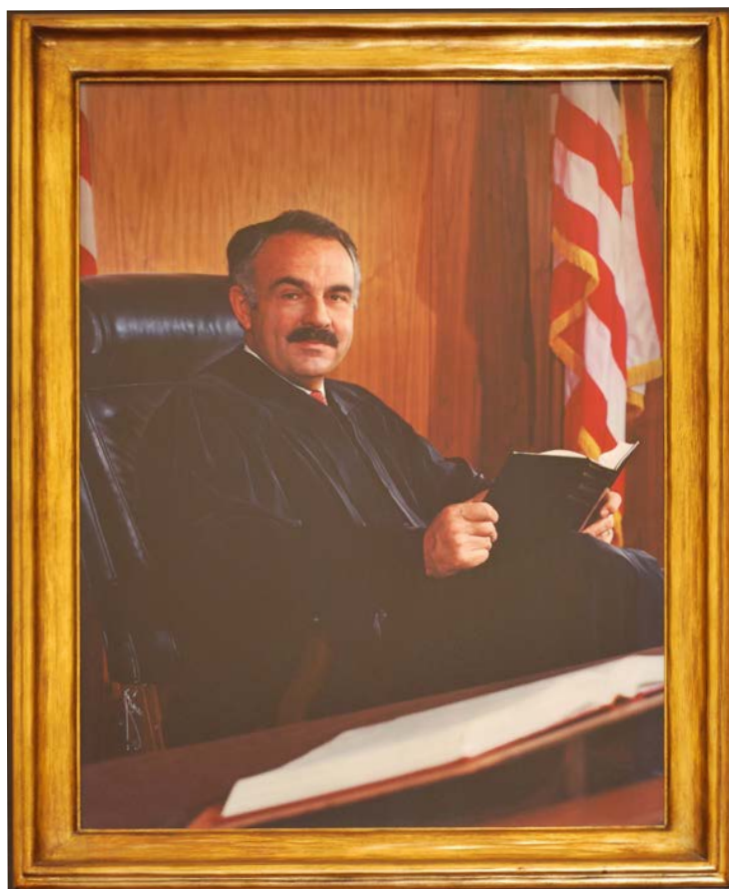




# Honorable Richard A. Enslen

Served 1979-2008

Chief Judge 1995-2001



*Portrait Location:* Federal Building Courtroom, Kalamazoo, Michigan

*Portrait Presented:* December 19, 2005, dedicated by the Western Michigan  
Federal Bar Association

*Portrait Artist:* LaClaire Studio, Grand Rapids, Michigan





# Honorable Richard A. Enslen

Served 1979-2008 Chief Judge 1995-2001



## Biography

**R**ichard Alan Enslen, son of Ehrman T. and Pauline (Dragoo) Enslen, was born May 28, 1931, in Kalamazoo, Michigan. He entered Kalamazoo College in 1949, but interrupted his education to join the United States Air Force in 1951 and served during the Korean War. When Enslen returned to Michigan in 1954, he enrolled in Western Michigan University. In 1955, Enslen transferred to Wayne State University and graduated with his LL.B. degree in 1958. While at Wayne State, he was chosen as a Lampson McElhone Scholar and a Jewel Corp. scholar. In May, 1986, he received a LL.M. from the University of Virginia.

After his admission to the Michigan Bar, Enslen practiced law in Kalamazoo with the law firm of Stratton, Wise, Early & Starbuck from 1958 to 1960. From 1960 to 1964, he was a partner in the firm of Bauckham & Enslen. Enslen left his law practice in 1965 to become Director of the U.S. Peace Corps in Costa Rica. After his service in the Peace Corps ended, he returned to Michigan to serve as a Judge in the Kalamazoo Municipal Court (1968-69) and as a Michigan District Judge (1969-1970). Enslen returned to the practice of law in 1970, joining the law firm of Howard & Howard, but left in 1976 to form the law firm of Enslen & Schma.

On November 30, 1979, President Jimmy Carter nominated Enslen to the United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan; Enslen received his commission on December 21, 1979, and opened his resident chambers in the Federal Building in Kalamazoo, Michigan. He served as Chief Judge from 1995 to 2001. Judge Enslen assumed senior status on September 1, 2005.

Judge Enslen is a member of the American Bar Association, serving on the Special Committee on Dispute Resolution (1983-1990); the American Judicature Society, serving on the Board of Directors (1983-1985); the American Law Institute; the Michigan State Bar Association; and the Kalamazoo County Bar Association. Judge Enslen has taught at Western Michigan University (1961-1962) and Nazareth College (1974-1975). He has been an adjunct professor in the Political Science Department at Western Michigan University. He has received distinguished alumni awards from both Wayne State University in 1980 and Western Michigan University in 1982. In 1985, Judge Enslen received the Center for Public Resources's Outstanding Practical Achievement Award for "outstanding application of alternative dispute resolution, dispute prevention, and litigation management techniques." He was named "Person of the Century—Law and the Courts" by the *Kalamazoo Gazette* on December 26, 1999.

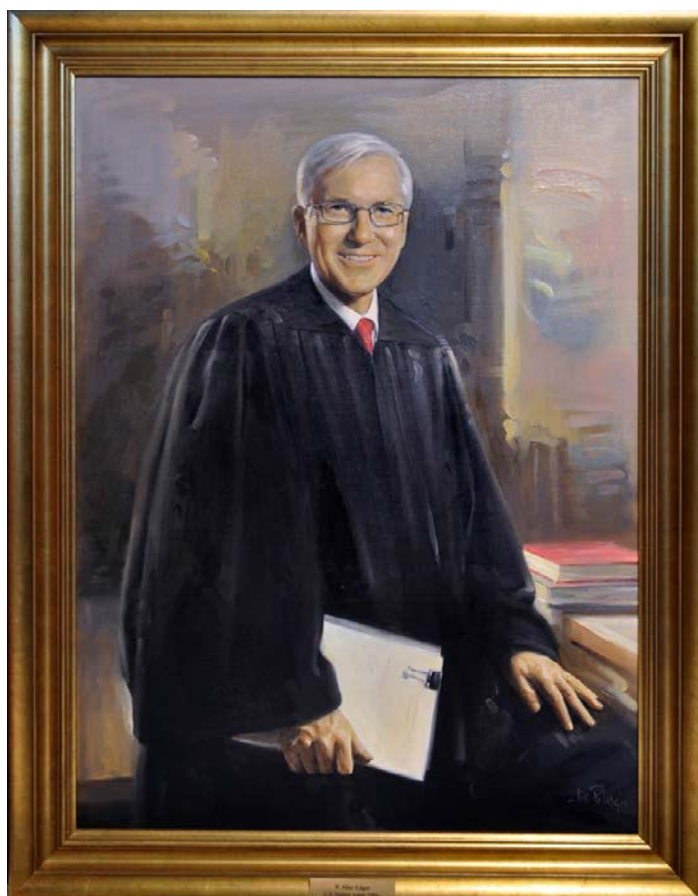
Judge Enslen married the former Pamela G. Chapman. He is the father of seven children: David, Susan, Sandra, Thomas, Janet, Joseph, and Gennady.





# Honorable R. Allan Edgar

Designated to Western District of Michigan 2011-Present   Served Eastern District of Tennessee 1985-2011



*Portrait Location:* Solomon Federal Building, Chattanooga, Tennessee  
Courtroom 3

*Portrait Presented:* October 7, 2005

*Portrait Artist:* Jim Pollard, Wisconsin



# Honorable R. Allan Edgar

Designated to Western District of Michigan 2011-Present Served Eastern District of Tennessee 1985-2011



## Biography

The eldest of three sons of Robert Richard and Jean (Hansen) Edgar, Robert Allan Edgar was born October 6, 1940, in Munising, Michigan. The family moved to Athens, Tennessee, in the 1950s when Edgar's father, a forester, took a position as Woods Manager of Bowater Southern Paper Corporation in Calhoun, Tennessee.

A graduate of McMinn County High School, Edgar attended Davidson College, where he received a B.A. in 1962, and Duke University School of Law, where he earned a LL.B. in 1965. As a First Lieutenant and then Captain in the United States Army from 1965 to 1967, Edgar served in Vietnam as an Army intelligence officer and received several medals including the Bronze Star for Valor.

After returning to civilian life, Edgar joined the Chattanooga, Tennessee, law firm of Miller, Martin, Tipton, Hitching, Lenihan & Waterhouse (currently Miller & Martin), specializing in labor and employment law. He was with the law firm from 1967 to 1985. During that time, he served one term in the Tennessee House of Representatives from 1971 to 1972, where he authored and sponsored the Emergency Medical Services Act, establishing statewide minimum standards for emergency equipment and training for emergency personnel. Governor Lamar Alexander appointed Edgar to a six-year term on the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Commission, from 1979 to 1985. He chaired the Commission in 1984.

On February 26, 1985, President Ronald Reagan nominated Edgar to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee; he received his commission on April 16, 1985. Judge Edgar served as Chief Judge from November 24, 1998 to October 7, 2005, when he assumed senior status. As Chief Judge, he served as a member of the Executive Committee of the Sixth Circuit Judicial Council. Judge Edgar began serving the United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan by designation in the late 1980s, while still an active District Judge in the Eastern District of Tennessee. He established chambers in Marquette, Michigan, on May 2, 2011, to serve as a Senior Judge for the Western District.

Active in professional and community organizations, Judge Edgar holds memberships in the Chattanooga Bar Association and the Federal Bar Association. He has served on the board of directors of the Chattanooga Chamber of Commerce, Senior Neighbors, and is a past president of the Chattanooga Civitan Club. He currently serves on the Board of the Community Foundation of Greater Chattanooga, Inc. and as a member of the United States Judicial Conference Committee on Court Administration and Case Management. He has served twice as Senior Warden of the Church of the Good Shepherd, Episcopal, Lookout Mountain, Tennessee.

Judge Edgar and his wife, Frances Gail (Martin) Edgar, have two daughters, Amy Elizabeth Sklansky of Boston, Massachusetts, and Laura Anne Haun of Augusta, Georgia.





# Honorable Robert H. Bell

Served 1987-Present Chief Judge 2001-2008





# Honorable Robert H. Bell

Served 1987 - Present Chief Judge 2001 - 2008



## Biography

Robert Holmes Bell was born in Lansing, Michigan, on April 19, 1944 to Preston C. and Eileen Holmes Bell. He resided in Williamston, graduated from Okemos High School, and later earned a B.A. from Wheaton College (Illinois) in 1966. He then attended Wayne State University Law School where he was President of the Board of the Free Legal Aid Clinic of the Law School.

After graduation from law school in 1969, Bell joined the Ingham County Prosecutor's Office where he rose to Chief Trial Attorney. In 1972 Bell ran successfully against an incumbent judge of the 55th State District Court in Ingham County. He served in that court until running successfully for a seat on the Ingham County Circuit bench in 1978. In addition to court work, Bell was an Adjunct Professor of Law at Thomas M. Cooley Law School, taught at the National Judicial College in Reno, Nevada, and served as a visiting judge on the Michigan Court of Appeals.

In 1987, Judge Bell was nominated by President Ronald Reagan for a District Court Judgeship in the Western District of Michigan. After confirmation by the Senate, he took the oath of office on August 6, 1987. Judge Bell was Chief Judge of the Court from 2001 to 2008.

In addition to his duties as an active judge on the Court, Judge Bell has regularly sat by designation on the Sixth Circuit and the Ninth Circuit Courts of Appeals, was the Distinguished Representative of the U.S. Judiciary at the International Conference on Criminal Law in Seoul, Korea, in 2010, and now both serves as Chair of the Criminal Law Committee of the Federal Judicial Conference and a member of the Federal Judicial Center Benchbook Committee.

The legal community has presented Judge Bell with the State Bar of Michigan's Champion of Justice award, the Hillman Advocacy Seminar's Hillman Award, and the Lifetime Judicial Achievement Award from the American Board of Trial Advocates.

Judge Bell married the former Helen Mortensen in 1968. They are the parents of Robert, Jr., Ruth (Olsson), and Jonathan.





# Honorable David W. McKeague

Served 1992-2005



*Portrait Location:* Gerald R. Ford Federal Building, Grand Rapids, Michigan,  
Courtroom 699

*Portrait Artist:* LaClaire Studio, Grand Rapids, Michigan



# Honorable David W. McKeague

Served 1992-2005



## Biography

David W. McKeague was born on November 5, 1946. He received a Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of Michigan in 1968 and his Juris Doctor from the University of Michigan in 1971.

President George H.W. Bush appointed Judge McKeague to the United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan in 1992. He served there until 2005, when President George W. Bush appointed him to the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. Judge McKeague has been appointed by the Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court to the Defender Services Committee and Budget Committee of the Judicial Conference of the United States. He previously served as Chairman of the District Judge Education Committee for the Federal Judicial Center. Before taking the bench, he worked in private practice as an associate and later as a shareholder and director at Foster, Swift, Collins, and Smith from 1971 to 1992.

Judge McKeague is an adjunct professor at the Michigan State University College of Law and is a frequent lecturer for other educational programs. He is the co-author of a chapter on removal jurisdiction in the third edition of *Business and Commercial Litigation in Federal Courts*. He currently serves on the Board of Trustees for Michigan State University College of Law and the Arts Council of Lansing. He is a founding master and past president of the American Inns of Court Chapter at Michigan State University College of Law and past president of the Wharton Center Advisory Council. He is a member of the Federal Bar Association, the State Bar of Michigan, the District of Columbia Bar Association, and the Federalist Society for Law and Public Policy Studies.

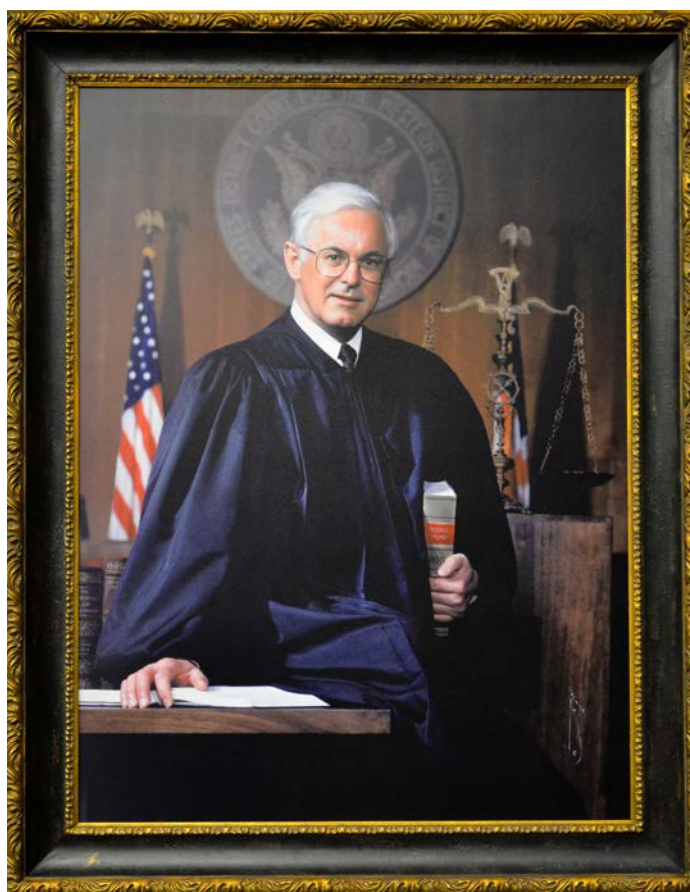
A lifelong resident of the Lansing area, he and his wife, Nancy Palmer McKeague, reside in East Lansing and have six children.





# Honorable Gordon J. Quist

Served 1992-Present



*Portrait Location:* Gerald R. Ford Federal Building, Grand Rapids, Michigan,  
Courtroom 699

*Portrait Presented:* August 28, 2012, dedicated by the Western Michigan  
Federal Bar Association

*Portrait Artist:* LaClaire Studio, Grand Rapids, Michigan



# Honorable Gordon J. Quist

Served 1992 - Present



## Biography

Judge Gordon J. Quist was born in 1937 and raised in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He graduated from Grand Rapids Christian High School in 1955. Judge Quist attended Calvin College for two years and then attended and graduated from Michigan State University in 1959. He attended George Washington University Law School in Washington, D.C., where he gained an academic scholarship. At law school, Judge Quist was an editor of the law review, graduated in the top 10% of his class, and was named to the Order of the Coif. He has received distinguished alumnus recognition from the law school.

Upon graduation, Judge Quist worked at the small anti-trust law firm of Hollabaugh and Jacobs in Washington, D.C. After two and a half years, Judge Quist moved to Chicago to work as an associate with a firm then known as Sonnenschein, Levinson, Carlin, Nath and Rosenthal. The firm is now a large international law firm. After two and a half years in Chicago, Judge Quist returned to his hometown, Grand Rapids. He began as an associate with the firm Miller, Johnson, Snell and Cummiskey. Judge Quist became a partner and later the managing partner of the firm, a role in which he served for six years until his confirmation as a federal judge.

While in practice in Grand Rapids, Judge Quist appeared in federal court representing various clients, but resisted limiting his practice to a narrow specialty. He was listed in *Best Lawyers in America* for business law. He was vice-chair and chair designate of the Business Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan, a role he had to relinquish when he became a federal judge. As a lawyer, Judge Quist participated in several community activities, including board memberships at Mary Free Bed Hospital, Wedgewood Acres Christian Youth Homes, Opera Grand Rapids, and Indian Trails Camp for Handicapped Children—where he also served two terms as president.

In 1992, Judge Quist was appointed to the federal bench by President George H.W. Bush. While a judge, Judge Quist served eight years as a member of the Judicial Conference Committee on Codes of Conduct, popularly known as the “ethics committee.” He chaired the committee for four years. Judge Quist has participated in four trips to the Russian Federation to assist the Russian judiciary in formulating and administering rules of conduct for judges. Judge Quist has sat by designation in district courts in New York, Ohio, Tennessee, and Arizona. He has also sat by designation with the U.S. Courts of Appeals for the Sixth, Ninth, and Eleventh Circuits.

Judge Quist and his wife, Jane, have five children, plus grandchildren and great-grandchildren.







# Honorable Paul L. Maloney

Served 2007-Present Chief Judge 2008-Present



# Honorable Paul L. Maloney

Served 2007 - Present Chief Judge 2008 - Present



## Biography

The Honorable Paul L. Maloney became Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan on July 18, 2008, after having been appointed to the federal bench in 2007. He was nominated by President George W. Bush, confirmed by the Senate on July 9, 2007, and took the oath of office on July 18, 2007. Judge Maloney received his B.A. from Lehigh University and his J.D. from the University of Detroit School of Law.

Judge Maloney served in the Berrien County Prosecutor's Office from 1975 to 1989, the last eight years as the Prosecuting Attorney. In 1989, he joined the United States Department of Justice as a Deputy Assistant Attorney General and in 1993, he was appointed Special Assistant to the Director of the Michigan Department of Corrections. In 1995 Judge Maloney was appointed a state District Judge for Berrien County, Michigan, and from 1996 to 2007 he served as a Circuit Court Judge for Berrien County. He served as the Chief Judge on the Berrien County Trial Court for eight years, until his appointment to the federal bench.

Judge Maloney was a member of the Supreme Court Criminal Rules Committee, and served as Chairman of the Michigan Sentencing Commission from 1995 to 1999. As Chief Judge of the Western District of Michigan, he is a member of the Sixth Circuit Judicial Council. In past years, he has sat by designation as a visiting judge at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.





# Honorable Robert J. Jonker

Served 2007 - Present



# Honorable Robert J. Jonker

Served 2007 - Present



## Biography

**R**obert Jonker was born in Holland, Michigan on March 9, 1960, to Jerry and Delia (Roels) Jonker. He graduated from Holland Christian High School in 1978, and from Calvin College in 1982. While at Calvin College, he served internships with State Senator Ed Fredricks in Lansing, Congressman Guy VanderJagt in Washington D.C. and U.S. District Judge Benjamin F. Gibson in Grand Rapids. He was Student Body President at Calvin College during his senior year.

After college, Judge Jonker was admitted to three prominent law schools: Harvard, the University of Chicago and the University of Michigan. He chose to stay in his home State and graduated from the University of Michigan Law School, *summa cum laude*, in 1985. He was ranked second in his class and was Order of the Coif. Before leaving law school, he worked as a research assistant to Professor James J. White, which contributed to a career long interest in commercial and bankruptcy law issues.

Judge Jonker began his legal career as a law clerk to the Honorable John F. Feikens of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan. He served Judge Feikens in Detroit for two years, from 1985-1987, during Judge Feikens' last year as Chief Judge of the District and his first year as a Senior Judge. After 37 years on the bench, Judge Feikens traveled to Grand Rapids to swear his former law clerk into office during Judge Jonker's formal investiture.

Before taking the bench, Judge Jonker practiced commercial and environmental litigation for twenty years with the law firm of Warner Norcross & Judd LLP. His work included cases in trial and appellate courts throughout the United States. He also presented cases to the Michigan Supreme Court and the United States Supreme Court. He was listed in Best Lawyers in America for business litigation.

President George W. Bush first nominated Robert Jonker to be a United States District Judge for the Western District of Michigan on June 28, 2006. The nomination lapsed at the end of the year without action in the Senate. The President nominated him again on March 19, 2007. The Senate confirmed the nomination on July 9, 2007. The President signed the commission appointing Judge Jonker on July 16, 2007. Judge Jonker assumed his duties on July 18, 2007, succeeding the Honorable Gordon J. Quist, who had assumed senior status on January 1, 2006. Judge Jonker currently sits by appointment of the Chief Justice of the United States on the Judicial Conference Advisory Committee on Bankruptcy Rules.





# Honorable Janet T. Neff

Served 2007 - Present





# Honorable Janet T. Neff

Served 2007 - Present



## Biography

**J**anet Theresa Neff, was born on April 8, 1945, in Wilksburg, Pennsylvania, the daughter of Pauline J. and Lino Nebiolo. Janet attended the University of Pittsburgh where she was elected to Omicron Delta Epsilon, an Economics Honorary Society, and graduated *cum laude* in 1967 with a B.A. Janet received her J.D. in 1970 from Wayne State University Law School.

Judge Neff has had a widely varied legal career beginning as a Law Clerk at the Michigan Court of Appeals from 1970 to 1971. Other government service included service as an Assistant City Attorney for the City of Grand Rapids, Michigan from 1971 to 1973, Commissioner for the Michigan Supreme Court from 1978 to 1980 and Assistant U.S. Attorney with the U.S. Attorney's Office, Western District of Michigan in 1980. Her private practice experience was conducted in two Grand Rapids law firms from 1973 to 1978 and from 1980 to 1988. She was elected to four terms and served more than 18 years as a Judge on the Michigan Court of Appeals.

President George W. Bush nominated Judge Neff to the United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan on March 19, 2007; she received her commission on August 6, 2007, succeeding Judge David W. McKeague who had been elevated to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. Judge Neff was the first woman Article III Judge to be appointed in the Western District of Michigan.

Active in professional and community organizations, Judge Neff holds memberships in the State Bar of Michigan where she served on the Board of Commissioners from 1980 to 1984, Grand Rapids Bar Association, Women Lawyers Association of Michigan, Western Region, Federal Bar Association, and Federal Judges Association.

Judge Neff served as the first woman President of the Grand Rapids Bar Association from 1989 to 1990, after having served as Treasurer, Vice-President, and President Elect from 1985 to 1989. She also received the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan, Western Region Outstanding Member of 2006 award, and the Law Enforcement Award for 1998 by the Order Sons of Italy in America Grand Lodge of Michigan. In addition, she was Honorary Co-Chair of the Habitat for Humanity Women Building the Dream Project, a house totally funded and built by women volunteers.

Judge Neff and her husband, David Neff, have two daughters, Genevieve Dormont of Brooklyn, New York, and Meredith Neff of Ann Arbor, Michigan.





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