



Statement of Chief Judge Mark R. Hornak expressing appreciation for the service of Judge Donetta W. Ambrose

PITTSBURGH, Pennsylvania -- Senior United States District Judge Donetta W. Ambrose has advised the Court that she will be moving to inactive senior status as of February 1, 2022. Judge Ambrose has served our Court and the cause of equal justice under law with distinction as a federal judge for more than twenty-eight years. She served as our Court's Chief Judge from 2002 to 2009 and was the first woman to do so. Judge Ambrose's federal judicial service followed more than a decade of service as a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Westmoreland County.

Judge Ambrose graduated from Duquesne University in 1967, and then graduated with honors from the Duquesne University School of Law in 1970. She has been recognized by that University as a member of its Century Club of most distinguished graduates, and previously served the citizens of Pennsylvania as an Assistant Attorney General, and as an Assistant District Attorney in Westmoreland County.

Judge Ambrose's service to the federal courts has included her work on the Criminal Law Committee of the Judicial Conference of the United States, and as a mentor judge to generations of incoming federal trial judges from across the Nation. She has been rightly recognized as a leader in the legal profession both locally and nationally, and as a leader in our larger Western Pennsylvania community.

As a Judge and Chief Judge of our Court, Judge Ambrose has been an exemplar of wisdom, courtesy, judgment and humanity in our common calling as judges. She has been a generous mentor to the more than two dozen District and Magistrate Judges who have joined the Court since she first arrived, and also for many lawyers, especially including those just beginning the practice of law.

Beyond the richly deserved professional accolades that have come her way, Donetta Ambrose has been a great friend to, and wise counselor for, the members of our Court family. We join together in sharing with her all good wishes as she enters this next chapter of her life, a life marked by its extraordinary contributions to the lives of others and to our community and Nation.

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