

## **Judge Norma L. Shapiro**

Judge Shapiro was appointed to the United States District Court by President Jimmy Carter on August 11, 1978 as the first woman judge to sit in the Third Circuit. Prior to her appointment to the bench, she was in private practice with the Dechert law firm (partner 1973-1978). Judge Shapiro holds a B.A. degree with honors in Political Theory from the University of Michigan (1948), and a J.D. degree Magna Cum Laude from the University of Pennsylvania (1951). On graduation, she served as a law clerk to Justice Horace Stern, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, and then was an instructor in Law and Psychiatry at the University of Pennsylvania Law School.

Judge Shapiro has served on the Judicial Conference Committee on Court Administration (1983-1987), the District Judges' Association (President), the Lawyers Advisory Panel to the Governor's Commission on the Status of Women, and the Board of Directors of the National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ) (1994-2000) and currently serves on the NAWJ Federal Judges Committee and Judicial Academic Network/Judicial Education Committee (2004-05). She chaired the Philadelphia Bar Association's Women's Rights Committee, and was the first woman on the Association's Board of Governors and its first female Chairperson. She has been a member of the House of Delegates of the Pennsylvania Bar Association, and is a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association's Commission on Women in the Profession. She was Chair of the American Bar Association Conference of Federal Trial Judges and its delegate to the House of Delegates; as a representative of the Judicial Division to the Section Officers Conference, she served as Chair of the 1997 Section Officers Conference. Judge Shapiro was Chair of the American Bar Association Judicial Division (1996-97) and served on the Judicial Division Council.

A former member of the American Bar Association Standing Committee on Judicial Independence and its Advisory Committee (1998-2001), she served as Chair of the Coordinating Council of the American Bar Association Justice Center and the American Bar Association Judicial Division Program Committee; in 2003, she was nominated Judicial Division representative to the American Bar Association Board of Governors (2003-06). Judge Shapiro has been active in professional, religious and community service organizations and has served as a member and President of the Board of School Directors, Lower Merion School Board, member and President of the Board of Trustees of the Jewish Publication Society, Vice-President of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Philadelphia, Trustee of the Albert Einstein Medical Center, and member of the Board of Overseers of the University of Pennsylvania Law School.

In addition to being a Distinguished Daughter of Pennsylvania (1996), Judge Shapiro is a recipient of the ABA Meador-Rosenberg Award (2003), and the National Association of Women Judges' Excellence in Service Award (2003). She has been honored with the Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award given by the American Bar Association Commission on Women in the Profession (1999); the Philadelphia Bar Association Sandra Day O'Connor Award (1993); the Federal Bar Association Bill of Rights Award (1991) and the University of Pennsylvania Law Alumni Society Distinguished Service Award. She is a member of the Cheltenham High School Hall of Fame.