



## **JANICE M. HOLDER**

JUSTICE

SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE (RET.)

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### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

Janice Holder began her legal career in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, as a judicial clerk for the Honorable Herbert P. Sorg, Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania. At the conclusion of her clerkship in 1977, she entered into private practice in Pittsburgh. She served as the solicitor for the Borough of McDonald, Pennsylvania, her hometown, for one year before moving to Memphis, Tennessee, where she practiced law for ten years.

Janice was elected judge of the Circuit Court of Shelby County, Tennessee, in 1990. In 1993, she was appointed the coordinating judge of the silicone gel breast implant cases in West Tennessee by the Tennessee Supreme Court. She served as a member of the National Conference of Chief Justices Mass Tort Litigation Committee and the Silicone Gel Breast Implant Subcommittee and was appointed the subcommittee's chair in 1996. She also served on the Tennessee Supreme Court as a special justice during its November 1994 session.

In 1996, she was appointed to the Tennessee Supreme Court by Governor Don Sundquist, and in 2008, she became the first woman to serve as Chief Justice of the Court. Justice Holder was a member of the Board of Directors and Second Vice President of the Conference of Chief Justices in 2011. She retired from the Supreme Court on September 1, 2014, after nearly twenty-four years of judicial service.

She currently serves as an alternative dispute resolution neutral and has been appointed as both a special master and a special judge. She is listed as a Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 31 General Civil Mediator.

## **EDUCATION**

Allegheny College, Meadville, Pennsylvania, 1967–1968  
University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 1968–1971 (B.S, summa cum laude,  
University Scholar)  
University of Pittsburgh Program, Rouen, France, 1970

University of Paris, the Sorbonne, summer session, 1970 (highest honors)

Duquesne University School of Law, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 1972–1975 (J.D.1975);  
*Duquesne Law Review*, 1973–1975; Recent Decisions Editor, 1974–1975

Tulane University Summer Session, Grenoble, France, 1974

## **ADMITTED TO PRACTICE LAW**

State of Tennessee  
United States District Court for the Western District of Tennessee  
United States Supreme Court  
United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (inactive)  
District of Columbia (inactive)

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

American Bar Association  
Lawyer Impairment Project, vice chair, 1987  
Judicial Administration Division, Standing Committee on Pro Bono and Public  
Service

- Data Collection Advisory Group, 2011–2013
- Judges' Working Group, Resource Center for Access to Justice Initiatives,  
2011–2013
- Judicial and Court Leadership Working Group, 2011–2013

Commission on Lawyer Assistance Programs (CoLAP), Advisory Committee, 2015-  
2016

American Bar Foundation

American Inns of Court, Leo Bearman, Sr. American Inn of Court, Emeritus Member

Association for Women Attorneys  
Treasurer, 1989  
Vice president, 1991

Conference of Chief Justices, 2008–2011

Board of directors and second vice president, 2010–2011

Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative [JDAI], Shelby County Juvenile Court

Legal Services Corporation, 2013–2014, Implementation of the 2012 Pro Bono Task Force Report, Rules Change Implementation Subcommittee

Memphis Bar Association

Secretary, 1993

Treasurer, 1994

Board of directors, 1986–1987, 1993–1994

Chair, Lawyers Helping Lawyers Committee, 1987–1991

Memphis and Shelby County Bar Foundation

Memphis State University College Advisory Committee for Paralegal Studies,  
1992–1993

National Association of Women Judges

2009 Annual Conference, co chair

Tennessee Coordinating Committee for “Informed Voters—Fair Judges” project

Tennessee Association of Professional Mediators, 2015–present

Tennessee Bar Association

House of Delegates, 1989–1991

Commission on Women and Minorities, 1992–1996; chair, 1994–1996

Tennessee Lawyers Concerned For Lawyers, executive committee, 1989–1998

Tennessee Bar Foundation

Trustee, 1995–1999

Secretary, 1997–1999

Tennessee Justice Center, board of directors, 2015–2018

Tennessee Lawyers’ Association for Women, founding member

Tennessee Task Force Against Domestic Violence, State Coordinating Council,  
1994–1996

Tennessee Judicial Conference

Vice chair, Pattern Jury Instructions—Civil Committee, 1991–1997

Treasurer, 1993–1994

Executive committee, 1993–1996

University of Tennessee College of Law Speaker Series Board of Advisors, 1998–2003

## **PROFESSIONAL HONORS**

Memphis Bar Association Sam A. Myar Award for Outstanding Service to the Legal Profession and to the Community, 1990

Memphis Bar Association, Judge of the Year, Divorce and Family Law Section, 1992

Memphis Bar Association, Chancellor Charles A. Rond Outstanding Jurist Award, Young Lawyer Section, 1992

*Memphis Magazine*, “Women You Need to Know,” 1995

The Tennessee Domestic Violence State Coordinating Council, In Recognition of Participation and Development of Tennessee Abuse Benchbook and Judicial Model Policy, 1995–1996

Tennessee Bar Association Young Lawyer Division, Honorary Fellow, 1997

Association for Women Attorneys, Marion Griffin–Frances Loring Award, 1999

American Bar Association Commission on Lawyer Assistance Programs, honored for exceptional support of the Tennessee Lawyer Assistance Program, 1999

Memphis Bar Association, Champion of Judicial Service, 2005

Tennessee Lawyers’ Association for Women, Honoree, 2006

National Association of Women Judges, Southern Regional Conference, honored as a woman leader of state courts, 2007

St. Mark Baptist Church, Community Service Award, 2008

Coalition for Mediation Awareness in Tennessee, Grayfred Gray Public Service Mediation Award, 2008

State of Tennessee House of Representatives, House Joint Resolution No. 1401, honoring Janice M. Holder as the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Tennessee, 2008

Southeastern Region of the American Board of Trial Advocates [SEABOTA], Jurist of the Year Award, 2009

Memphis Area Legal Services, W. J. Michael Cody Pro Bono Attorney of the Year Award, 2009

University of Pittsburgh, Legacy Laureate, 2010

The "19th turns 90" Celebration of the 90th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, honored in Shelby County, Tennessee, 2010

Memphis Area Legal Services 40th Anniversary Celebration, Honorary Co-Chair, 2010

*Memphis Magazine*, "Who's Who: A quick guide to our city's movers, shakers, and other news makers," 2010, 2012, and 2013

Dress for Success Memphis, 2012 Woman of Courage Award, 2012

University of Pittsburgh, 225th Anniversary Medallion in recognition of leadership and service to Tennessee's legal community and for mentoring young people and young professionals, 2012

Tennessee Bar Association, 2013 Frank F. Drowota III Outstanding Judicial Service Award for work with the Tennessee Lawyer Assistance Program and Access to Justice Issues, 2013

Association for Women Attorneys President's Award for loyal, faithful, and devoted service to the Association for Women Attorneys, 2014

Memphis Area Legal Services, award for lifetime commitment to promoting Access to Justice, 2014

Tennessee Alliance for Legal Services, First Annual Janice M. Holder Award for Access to Justice, 2014

Tennessee Bar Association, 2014 William M. Leech, Jr., Public Service Award for outstanding service to the legal profession, the legal system, and the community, 2014

Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law, First Recipient, Justice Janice M. Holder Annual Pro Bono PALS Award for Pro Bono Service, Public Action Law Society, 2014

Memphis Area Legal Services' 40th Anniversary Celebration, Honorary Chair, 2014

Knoxville Bar Association, Resolution in Honor of Justice Janice M. Holder, 2014

Tennessee Economic Council on Women, Inductee, Tennessee Women's Hall of Fame, 2015

University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee, Honorary Doctor of Civil Law, 2015

Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Alumni Award,  
University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 2015

Memphis Area Legal Services Campaign for Equal Justice, Chair, 2015

Tennessee Supreme Court Certificate of Recognition of Janice M. Holder as a 2015  
Attorney for Justice for providing fifty or more hours of pro bono service in  
Tennessee

#### **APPOINTMENTS AND DESIGNATIONS**

Tennessee Judicial Council, 1992–1996

Conference of Chief Justices

Mass Tort Litigation Committee, 1992–1996

Silicone Gel Breast Implant Sub-Committee, 1992–1996

- Chair, 1996

Conference of Chief Justices Civil Justice Committee, 2008–2011

- Vice chair, 2010–2011

Criminal Justice—Evidence-Based Sentencing Committee, 2009–2010

Access, Fairness and Public Trust Committee, 2009–2010

Second vice president and member of the board of directors, 2010–2011

Tennessee Supreme Court

West Tennessee Coordinating Judge of the Silicone Gel Breast Implant Cases,  
1993

Special Justice, November Session, Memphis, TN, 1994

Special Worker's Compensation Appeals Panel, Supreme Court of Tennessee,  
October 9, 1995, Session

Liaison

- Tennessee Lawyer Assistance Program, 1997–2008 and 2010–2014
- Alternative Dispute Resolution Commission, 1997–2005 and 2006–2007
- Board of Professional Responsibility, 2006–2008
- Access to Justice Commission, 2009–2014

#### **PUBLICATIONS AND VIDEO PRESENTATIONS**

“Comparison of Two Oddity Tasks with Pigeons,” Zentall, Thomas, David Hogan, and  
Janice Holder, *Learning and Motivation* (February 28, 1974) 5, 106–117

Casenote, 12 *Duq. L. Rev.* 982 (1975)

Editor, *Memphis Bar Forum*, 1987–1991

“General Sessions Appeals: The Effect of a Voluntary Non-Suit After Appeal to Circuit Court,” *Memphis Bar Forum*, Vol. IV, No. 2 (1989)

“Appeals from General Sessions: Multiple Defendants v. Singular Appeals,” *Memphis Bar Forum*, Vol. IV, No. 4 (1990)

“The Need for Education,” Letter, *Judicature* (December–January 1992)

“Pattern Jury Instructions in Tennessee: Comparative Fault and Related Issues,” 23 *Mem. St. U. L. Rev.* 155 (1992)

Video, “Current Status of the Silicone Gel Breast Implants Products Liability Litigation” with Chief Judge Sam C. Pointer Jr., Northern District of Alabama, and Chief Judge Frederick Motz, District of Maryland, Federal Judicial Center, May 1996

“A Judicial Perspective of Alternative Dispute Resolution,” one of several contributors, *Memphis Lawyer Magazine* (January 1997)

“Balancing Act,” 65 *Tenn. L. Rev.* 829 (1998)

“Ten Top Tips on Appellate Practice,” *The Tennessee Trial Lawyer*, First Quarter 2003

Editor, *Richards on Tennessee Family Law*, 4th ed., Newark, NJ: LexisNexis, 2009–2011

“Completing the Puzzle: Lawyer Assistance and Conditional Admission,” 49 *Duq. L. Rev.* 439 (2011)

#### **CIVIC AND CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS**

iCivics, 2010–present, Honorary Chair for Tennessee

International Women's Forum  
Chair, Memphis Chapter, 2006–2013

Kiwanis Club of Memphis  
Board of directors, 2013–2016  
Vice president, 2013–2014

Leadership Memphis, Class of 1993

Memphis Botanic Garden Foundation  
Board of trustees, 1995–2002

Memphis Council for International Visitors  
Board of directors, 2002–2009  
Secretary, 2003–2005

Memphis in May International Festival, Inc.  
Board of directors, 2012–2015

Pitt Alumni Association, University of Pittsburgh  
Director-at-large, 2014–2016

**SPEECHES, SEMINARS, AND PRESENTATIONS**

Janice has made approximately 400 presentations to legal associations and groups; law students; elementary, middle school, high school, and college students; and civic organizations.