

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Feb. 16, 2015

The Honorable Jan R. Jurden Takes the Oath of Office for the
President Judge of the Superior Court

The Honorable Jan R. Jurden was sworn in for her first term as President Judge of the Superior Court of the State of Delaware on February 16, 2015 at 3:30 p.m. in Courtroom 8B of the New Castle County Courthouse. The Honorable Susan C. Del Pesco, the first woman to serve as a Superior Court Judge in Delaware (1988 -2008), administered the oath of office.

Upon taking the oath, President Judge Jurden became the first woman to hold the position of President Judge in the history of the Superior Court. The President Judge acts as the head of the court, setting policies and rules and overseeing administrative matters like the assignment of judges to cases, in addition to the usual duties of a Superior Court judge in presiding over civil and criminal trials.

A member of the Superior Court bench since May 2001, President Judge Jurden has presided over the Superior Court's Mental Health Court since its inception in 2008 and is a member of the Court's Complex Commercial Litigation Division. She also previously served as Criminal Administrative Judge and oversaw the Conflict Attorney Program which provided representation for indigent defendants from 2006 to 2008.

Prior to joining the bench, she became a partner at Young, Conaway, Stargatt & Taylor in 1996 having joined the firm in 1988. In private practice she concentrated on corporate, commercial and personal injury litigation and litigated cases in the U.S. District Court, Delaware Supreme Court, Superior Court, Court of Chancery, Family Court and Court of Common Pleas.

After serving three years in the United States Army overseas, President Judge Jurden received her B.A. summa cum laude from Muhlenberg College in 1985 and her J.D. from the Dickinson School of Law (now the Dickinson School of Law of the Pennsylvania State University) in 1988 where she was an Articles Editor of the Law Review and a member of the Woolsack Honor Society.

President Judge Jurden was the 2011 recipient of the *Outstanding Service to the Courts and Bar Award*, presented by the Delaware State Bar Association to a judge or lawyer who "by exemplary service to the Delaware Courts and the Delaware Bar has substantially assisted the Courts and the Bar and strengthened the public trust and confidence in the State's court system and the administration of justice."

She was the 2009 recipient of the *Sylvia H. Rambo Award* presented by the Women's Law Caucus of the Pennsylvania State University Dickinson School of Law "honoring a woman in the legal profession who has had a distinguished career and who, by example, has made the professional success of other women more likely."

She was the 1997 recipient of the *Caleb R. Layton III Service Award* awarded to one who "personifies the

qualities of a federal practitioner, legal acumen, professional decorum and public service.”

She was also the 1996 recipient of the *New Lawyers Distinguished Service Award*, awarded to one who, “by exemplary leadership and service dedicated to the cause of good citizenship in civic and humanitarian service over a period of less than ten years has maintained the integrity and honored recognition of the legal profession in community affairs and who, as an outstanding Delawarean, has unceasingly advanced the ideals of citizen participation and community accomplishment, thus reflecting high honor on both country and profession.”

**For more information, please contact
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