

Janice M. Holder

Janice Holder served as the first female chief justice of the Tennessee Supreme Court and retired from the bench in September 2014. Prior to her appointment to the state's highest court, she was elected to Division II of the Circuit Court of Tennessee for the 30th Judicial District at Memphis. While on the circuit court, she created an alternative dispute resolution pilot project to explore the uses of mediation, non-binding arbitration, and early neutral evaluation in Shelby County, Tennessee.

Justice Holder is a summa cum laude graduate of the University of Pittsburgh and a graduate of the Duquesne University School of Law where she was Recent Decisions Editor of the *Duquesne Law Review*. She served as a law clerk for Judge Herbert P. Sorg of the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania. In 2010, she was named a Legacy Laureate by the University of Pittsburgh and in 2012 received its 225th Anniversary Medallion. She received the 2015 University of Pittsburgh Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Alumni Award. In 2015, she was inducted into the Tennessee Women's Hall of Fame by the Tennessee Economic Council on Women.

In 2008, she received the Grayfred Gray Public Service Mediation Award from the Coalition for Mediation Awareness in Tennessee and served as the Tennessee Supreme Court Liaison to the Alternative Dispute Resolution Commission for nine years prior to her retirement. Since then, she has served as a mediator and arbitrator in cases filed in state and federal courts. She is listed as a Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 31 General Civil and Family Law Mediator and serves on the Roster of the American Arbitration Association. She is a member of the National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals.

Janice is active in the community, continuing to work to expand access to justice in Tennessee and serving on the Metal Museum Board of Trustees and on the Board of Commissioners of Memphis Area Transit Authority. She holds a sixth degree Black Belt in the American Combative Arts System.