

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 9, 2024

**Delaware Superior Court President Judge Jan R. Jurden  
to retire Feb. 28, 2025**

*President Judge Jurden has served 23 years on Superior Court,  
nine of those years as the court's first female chief judge*

Superior Court President Judge Jan R. Jurden has notified Gov. John Carney of her intention to step down from the bench effective Feb. 28, 2025.

President Judge Jurden first joined the court as a Superior Court Judge in May 2001 and was appointed President Judge in January 2015, becoming the first woman to hold that position. In her letter to Governor Carney, President Judge Jurden wrote that it has been an honor and privilege to serve the people of Delaware. She continued that, during her two terms on the bench, "I could not have asked for better colleagues, or more dedicated, hardworking court staff." She concluded, "as much as I love the Court and my Superior Court family, I write to let you know I have decided it is time."

"A skilled leader in normal times, President Judge Jurden led the Superior Court through the COVID 19 pandemic with all the competence, care, and grace one would expect from a person of such great character and wisdom," said Delaware Supreme Court Chief Justice Collins J. Seitz, Jr. "The Delaware courts will miss her greatly, and we wish her well in her next chapter of life."

Prior to joining the bench, President Judge Jurden practiced law at Young Conaway Stargatt and Taylor, where she started as an associate in June 1988 and became a partner in January 1996.

During her time on Superior Court, President Judge Jurden served on the Complex Commercial Litigation Division, launched and presided over the Superior Court Mental Health Court, oversaw the Conflict Attorney Program and presided over the Veterans' Treatment Court. She also served as the Criminal Administrative Judge before she became the administrative head of the Superior Court.

President Judge Jurden is a veteran, having served in the U.S. Army from July 1979 to July 1982, leaving the service with an Honorable Discharge as a Sergeant (E-5). She received her law degree from the Dickinson School of Law in 1988 and received her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Muhlenberg College in 1985.

During her career on the bench, President Judge Jurden presided over dozens of high-profile trials, both civil and criminal. She sat by designation on the Delaware Supreme Court on several occasions. In 2019, President Judge Jurden was inducted into the Delaware Women's Hall of Fame. In 2022, the Delaware State Bar Association awarded her the Honorable Aida Wasserstein Award for professional excellence and for significant contributions to the Women and the Law

Section of the DSBA. In 2011 she received the DSBA's "Outstanding Service to the Courts and Bar Award."

President Judge Jurden has also served as an adjunct professor at Widener University School of Law, the University of Delaware, Dickinson School of Law, and Wilmington College.

In her retirement letter to the Governor, the President Judge recalled Judge Norman Barron pulling her aside before she was sworn in as a judge to say, "best of luck to you as you commence the best job you will ever have. Go forth and do justice." Jurden added, "He was right about the job and I have strived to 'do justice.'"