



Public Information Office
United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

Office of the Circuit Executive · 95 7th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103 · (415) 355-8800 · (415) 355-8901 Fax

NEWS RELEASE

October 20, 2015

Contact: David J. Madden (415) 355-8800

Law School Alma Mater Honors Ninth Circuit Judge M. Margaret McKeown

SAN FRANCISCO – Georgetown University Law Center recently recognized the career achievements of one of its most accomplished alumni, Circuit Judge M. Margaret McKeown of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Judge McKeown, 64, was presented with the Robert F. Drinan, S.J., Law Alumni Public Service Award on October 17, 2015, during the law center’s reunion weekend. The award honors a Georgetown Law graduate whose career has been dedicated to enhancing human dignity and advancing justice.

Judge McKeown earned her J.D. in 1975 from the Georgetown Law Center, where she edited the Journal of Law and Policy in International Business. She received her B.A. from the University of Wyoming in 1972, graduating Phi Beta Kappa, and studied at the University of Madrid before entering law school.

Nominated by President Clinton, Judge McKeown came onto the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in 1998 and has her chambers in San Diego. In addition to authoring more than 300 court opinions, she is an expert on judicial ethics and was appointed by Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr., to chair the Codes of Conduct Committee of the Judicial Conference of the United States, the national governing body of the federal courts. She is the immediate past president of the Federal Judges Association and current chair of the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative Board.

Before coming onto the federal bench, Judge McKeown had been in private practice with the Seattle law firm of Perkins Coie from 1975 to 1998. She was the first woman to become a

partner and serve on the firm's executive committee and also founded its Washington, D.C. office and its intellectual property practice. She was also a White House fellow in 1980-1981, serving as special assistant to the secretary of the Department of the Interior and special assistant at the White House.

The Drinan Award is named for the late Rev. Drinan, a Jesuit priest who taught at Georgetown Law from 1981 until his death in 2007. Rev. Drinan was also a lawyer, politician, activist and a leading advocate of international human rights. He was the first Catholic priest to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives, representing Massachusetts from 1971 to 1980.

Judge McKeown received an honorary degree from Georgetown Law in 2005 and is the recipient of 2011 Georgetown Alumni Association's John Carroll Award recognizing lifetime achievement. The award is named for Archbishop John Carroll, who founded the nation's oldest Catholic university in Washington, D.C., in 1789.

Other honors accorded Judge McKeown include the American Bar Association's 2010 Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award and the Federal Bar Association Community Service Award.

Judge McKeown serves on the council of the American Law Institute, the executive council for the American Society of International Law, the managerial board of the International Association of Women Judges and the editorial board of Litigation Journal. She is vice chair of the Georgetown Law Board of Visitors and Jurist-in-Residence at the University of San Diego Law School. She is an adviser on the American Law Institute Restatements of the Law for Copyright, Foreign Relations and International Commercial Arbitration.

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals hears appeals of cases decided by executive branch agencies and federal trial courts in nine western states and two Pacific Island jurisdictions. The court normally meets monthly in Seattle, San Francisco, and Pasadena; every other month in Portland, Oregon; three times per year in Honolulu, Hawaii; and twice a year in Anchorage, Alaska. A complete schedule of cases is available online at <http://www.ca9.uscourts.gov>.

###