

April 23, 2012

Former Public Defender Krauthamer Sworn in as D.C. Superior Court Judge



District of Columbia Superior Court Judge Peter Krauthamer was sworn in on Friday as one of the newest members of the bench.

Krauthamer, a longtime public defender in Washington, was nominated to Superior Court in July and [confirmed by the Senate](#) in November.

Shortly after earning his J.D. in 1982 from Boston University School of Law, Krauthamer joined the D.C. Public Defender Service. Superior Court Chief Judge Lee Satterfield, speaking at Friday's ceremony, said Krauthamer "did just about everything there."

Over the years, Krauthamer served as the deputy chief of the trial division, trial chief and training director. In 1994, he left to work for a year at the Federal Defender Service for the District of Columbia, and then joined the faculty of Howard University School of Law in 1995.

After serving as deputy director of the District of Columbia Pretrial Services Agency, Krauthamer went back to the D.C. public defender's office in 2004, this time as deputy director until his appointment to the bench.

Judge Robert Wilkins of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, a former colleague of Krauthamer's at the Public Defender Service, praised Krauthamer's "humanity" in his remarks at Friday's ceremony. He began with a few stories that earned laughs – during Krauthamer's first jury trial, for instance, Wilkins said Krauthamer was so nervous that he ended his opening arguments by asking the jury to find his client guilty.

On a more serious note, though, Wilkins recalled how his first trial as a junior attorney involved assisting Krauthamer in the defense of a young man charged with murder. It wasn't a case that made headlines, unlike several high-profile cases Krauthamer handled, but even when no one was watching, Wilkins said, he "always cared."

"We have added to the bench someone with such talent and such humanity and who cares so much that he will never ever let us down," Wilkins said.

Krauthamer was one of three new Superior Court judges confirmed in November, along with Judge John McCabe and Judge Danya Dayson.

National Law Journal photos by Diego M. Radzinski.