

THE HONORABLE EDWARD A. O'CONNELL
ASSOCIATE JUDGE
SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Edward A. O'Connell was nominated by President Donald Trump to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia on May 6, 2025. His nomination was confirmed by the United States Senate on September 18, 2025.

Judge O'Connell is a native of Frederick, Maryland. He first came to Washington, DC to attend The Catholic University of America, where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in History. Judge O'Connell received his Juris Doctor degree from Quinnipiac University School of Law. He is admitted to the bars of Maryland and the District of Columbia. Following law school, he served as a Law Clerk to the Honorable Rufus King III on the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

Upon the completion of his clerkship, Judge O'Connell served as an Assistant State's Attorney for Baltimore City, where he prosecuted juvenile delinquency, narcotics, weapons offenses, and violent crimes.

From 2002 until 2021, Judge O'Connell served as an Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Columbia, where he received numerous Special Achievement Awards. He argued several appeals before the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, and prosecuted narcotics and weapons offenses in United States District Court. Judge O'Connell served as a Community Prosecutor, where he addressed crime in specific neighborhoods in Washington, DC, and was active in Project LEAD, teaching elementary school students about citizenship and the Justice System.

The majority of Judge O'Connell's career in the United States Attorney's Office was dedicated to serving in the Superior Court Division. He prosecuted misdemeanors, narcotics offenses, weapons offenses, and violent crimes. Judge O'Connell served for ten years as the United States Attorney's Office's Vehicular Homicide prosecutor.

Prior to taking the bench, Judge O'Connell served as the Chief of Staff and Deputy General Counsel to the Inspector General for the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission and Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board.

Judge O'Connell is active in the John Carroll Society, the William B. Bryant American Inn of Court, the Thomas More Society of America, and the Catholic Charities Legal Network of the Archdiocese of Washington. He is married and has one daughter.