

**THE HONORABLE JOHN M. FERREN  
SENIOR JUDGE  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURT OF APPEALS**

John M. Ferren is a Senior Judge on the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, where he served as an active judge for twenty years, appointed by President Jimmy Carter.

Judge Ferren is a graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School. He practiced law in Chicago with Kirkland & Ellis, and then taught at Harvard Law School, where in 1966 he established and directed a federally funded neighborhood law office program to serve the low-income community and provide clinical training for students. In 1970, he was invited to join Hogan & Hartson in Washington, D.C. as a partner charged with creating and directing a Community Services Department, which functions today as one of the nation's largest law firm *pro bono* programs. After his years of active service on the court, Judge Ferren retired to become Corporation Counsel for the District of Columbia, from 1997 to 1999, and then returned to the court in senior status.

Judge Ferren has published numerous articles in the fields of clinical legal education and professional responsibility and, more recently, has written a biography, *Salt of the Earth, Conscience of the Court: the Story of Justice Wiley Rutledge*, published by the University of North Carolina Press in 2004. It received the annual book prize awarded by the Langum Project for Historical Literature for the best book of legal history or biography that is "accessible to the educated general public," and it shared the H. George Pendleton Prize awarded by the Society for History in the Federal Government.

Other honors include the Hughes-Gossett Prize for 2004, awarded by the Supreme Court Historical Society for the best article of the year in the *Journal of Supreme Court History*, and in 1999 the William J. Brennan, Jr. Award by the District of Columbia Bar for "outstanding efforts and dedicated service in the public interest." In 2000-2001, Judge Ferren was a Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, and in 2007 he was awarded an honorary doctor of laws degree from Maryville College in Tennessee.

Judge Ferren has chaired various committees of the American Bar Association and the Judicial Conference of the District of Columbia concerned with making legal services more available to low-income clients. In the 1964 he started a program of volunteer lawyers to aid indigent clients in Chicago; it continues today as Chicago Volunteer Legal Services, Inc. And he has served on many boards, such as the Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, the National Prison Project of the ACLU Foundation, and the Council for Legal Education for Professional Responsibility, Inc. He is also a member of the American Law Institute and a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation.

With his son Peter, Judge Ferren wrote *We The People*, a musical celebration of the Constitutional Convention of 1787, which had several performances in 1991 in Washington, D.C. and Williamsburg, Virginia. Judge Ferren is married to Linda J. Ferren, formerly Circuit Executive for the U.S. Courts of the District of Columbia Circuit. They each have two children and share six grandchildren.