

THE HONORABLE STEPHANIE DUNCAN-PETERS
SENIOR JUDGE
SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Judge Stephanie Duncan-Peters was appointed to the Superior Court of the District of Columbia in 1992 by President George H.W. Bush. Judge Duncan-Peters served as an Associate Judge of the Superior Court until her retirement in May of 2011, when she was appointed to serve as a Senior Judge.

Judge Duncan-Peters was born in New York, New York. She is a 1970 graduate of Walt Whitman High School in Bethesda, Maryland. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Muhlenberg College in 1974 and her law degree from Catholic University in 1977. At Catholic University, she was the chancellor of the Moot Court Board, a member of the law review, and the winner of two appellate advocacy competitions.

Following graduation from law school, Judge Duncan-Peters clerked for the Honorable Stanley S. Harris, who was then an Associate Judge on the District of Columbia Court of Appeals. Judge Duncan-Peters joined the staff of the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia in 1978. She became Deputy Chief of Felony Trials in 1982, and remained with the Public Defender Service until 1985. In 1985, Judge Duncan-Peters became a trial attorney with the Public Integrity Section in the Criminal Division of the United States Department of Justice. In that capacity, she handled federal grand jury investigations, trials, and appeals throughout the United States in cases involving the alleged corruption of public officials. When Judge Duncan-Peters left the Justice Department in 1989, she joined the law firm then known as Chaikin & Karp, P.C., where she litigated personal injury cases on behalf of plaintiffs in the District of Columbia and Maryland.

Since her appointment as an Associate Judge in 1991, Judge Duncan-Peters has served in the Criminal, Family and Civil Divisions. She served as Presiding Judge of the Civil Division from 2008 to May 2, 2011 and as Deputy Presiding Judge of that Division from 2005 to 2007. At the court, she has been a member of the Judicial Education Committee, the Criminal Rules Advisory Committee, and the Standing Committee on Fairness and Access to the Courts. In her capacity as the former Presiding Judge of the Civil Division, she served on the Rules Committee, the Landlord-Tenant Rules Advisory Committee, the Civil Rules Advisory Committee, the Small Claims Rules Advisory Committee and the Privacy and Public Access Committee. In 2005, she was appointed to the Access to Justice Commission and served on that Commission until 2011.

In 2000, Judge Duncan-Peters was recognized by the Family Law Section of the District of Columbia Bar for her outstanding performance in adjudicating and mediating domestic relations cases. In 2005, she received the Hellenic Heritage National Public Service Award. In 2006, the Bar Association of the District of Columbia selected her as its Judicial Honoree.

Throughout her career, Judge Duncan-Peters has been active in the District of Columbia Bar and the community. She has served on the Steering Committee of the Injury to Persons and Property Section of the D.C. Bar and the Criminal Law and Individual Rights Steering Committee. She taught criminal trial practice at Catholic University's Law School from 1984 to 1990 and was an instructor at the Harvard Law School Trial Advocacy Workshop, the National Institute for Trial Advocacy, the Criminal Practice Institute, and the Attorney General's Advocacy Institute. She has worked as a volunteer at the Hospice Unit of the Washington Home, the Friends of the National Symphony and other community groups. From 2000 to 2002, Judge Duncan-Peters served on the Board of the Directors of the Bar Association of the District of Columbia, where she received the President's Special Recognition Award. From 2004 to 2006, she served on the Board of Directors of the Foundation of the Bar Association of the District of Columbia. She is a member of the Lawyers' Club, the Counsellors and the Barristers, where she previously served on the Executive Committee.