

THE HONORABLE JOHN M. MOTT
ASSOCIATE JUDGE
SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Judge John M. Mott was appointed to the Superior Court for the District of Columbia in 2000 by President William J. Clinton.

Judge Mott was born in New York and spent his childhood in New York City, Bethesda, Maryland, Acton, Massachusetts, and Baltimore, Maryland, before attending junior high school in Tucson, Arizona and high school near Rochester, New York. He graduated from Dartmouth College with a Bachelor of Arts in History in 1981 and from Northeastern University School of Law in 1988. In between college and law school, he taught high school history for three years in New Hampshire, worked in Washington, D.C. at the National Council of La Raza and Neighborhood Legal Services, traveled extensively in South America, and worked in Japan.

After law school, Judge Mott returned to Washington, where he served as a trial attorney at the Public Defender Service (P.D.S.) from 1988 to 1995. At P.D.S., Judge Mott tried cases and argued appeals in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia and the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. During his last three years as a criminal defense attorney at P.D.S., Judge Mott handled primarily homicide cases and other serious felony matters, and he supervised junior attorneys.

In 1995, Judge Mott joined the Justice Department as a senior trial attorney in the Civil Rights Division, Criminal Section, where he investigated and prosecuted violations of federal statutes prohibiting hate crime, police brutality and other official misconduct, involuntary servitude and slavery, church arson, and criminal obstruction of clinic entrances. Among the many matters that Judge Mott successfully investigated and tried as a federal prosecutor were the roadside beating of a teenage couple by the Chief Deputy Sheriff in DeSoto County, Mississippi; a police officer burglary ring operating in the town of Palisades Park, New Jersey; and the beating of undocumented migrant farmworkers living near the Marine base at Camp Pendleton, California by Marine Corp. military police officers. After serving with distinction at the Civil Rights Division, Judge Mott was promoted to Acting Deputy Chief and then Deputy Chief in the Criminal Section. He also served as the Office's Professional Responsibility Officer.

In July of 1998, then Assistant Attorney General Bill Lann Lee appointed Judge Mott to serve as Acting Chief of the Criminal Section. In addition to running the day-to-day operations of the Criminal Section during the next six months, Judge Mott focused the efforts of the newly-created Worker Exploitation Task Force and, in the aftermath of the November 1998 shooting of Dr. Barnett Slepian, helped to create, staff, and direct the operations of the Task Force on Violence Against Health Care Providers. Among the numerous awards he received at the Department of Justice, the then Assistant Attorney General presented Judge Mott with a Special Achievement Award for his service as Acting Chief.

Judge Mott has been active in the District community. For several years he worked with hundreds of children, ages six to eighteen, on weekday evenings and on weekends from April to August as an assistant track coach with the Pioneer Athletic Club, based at Calvin Coolidge High School. In addition, Judge Mott has served as Steering Committee Co-Chair of the Courts, Lawyers and the

Administration of Justice Section of the D.C. Bar; as a member of the Committee on Unauthorized Practice of Law; as the Youth Chair of the D.C. Coalition Against Drugs and Violence; as a Board member of the Assembly of Petworth; and as a member of the Charlotte E. Ray, American Inn of Court.

Over his time on the bench, Judge Mott has presided over cases in the Superior Court's Criminal and Civil Divisions and in its Family Court. He currently handles complex civil matters on a Civil I assignment and is active on a number of D.C. Superior Court Committees and Sub-Committees.