



Wendy Beetlestone

Born: 1961, in Ibadan, Nigeria

**Federal Judicial Service:**

Judge, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania  
Nominated by Barack Obama on June 16, 2014, to a seat vacated by Michael M. Baylson.  
Confirmed by the Senate on November 20, 2014, and received commission on November 21, 2014.  
Serves as Chief Judge, August 1, 2025 – Present.

**Education:**

Liverpool University, B.A. (Hons.), Philosophy, 1984  
University of Pennsylvania Law School (now Carey Law School), J.D., 1993  
Drexel University, Doctor of Laws (Honoris Causa), 2019  
University of Liverpool, Doctor of Laws (Honoris Causa), 2019

**Professional Career:**

Television News Producer, BBC, CNN, Pittsburgh (local TV stations) and Bala Cynwyd (local TV station), Pennsylvania: 1984-1990  
Intern, Hon. Jan E. Dubois, , U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Pennsylvania: Summer 1991  
Law Clerk, Hon. Robert S. Gawthrop, III, U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Pennsylvania: 1993-1994  
Private Practice, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: 1994-2002; 2005-2014  
General Counsel, The School District of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: 2002-2005

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Judicial Biography

Judge Beetlestone was born in Ibadan, Nigeria, where her parents worked as academics at the University of Ibadan. After leaving Nigeria with her family as a teenager, she attended the University of Liverpool, graduating with honors in philosophy. While at Liverpool she was also

editor-in-chief of the university newspaper, *The Guild and City Gazette*, and was elected by the student body to serve as Welfare and National Union of Students sabbatical officer for the Guild of Undergraduates.

After graduation, she worked as a journalist at the British Broadcasting Company before being recruited by CNN in Atlanta and, eventually, moving to Philadelphia to work as a news producer at Channel 10. After six years as a journalist, she decided to pursue a longstanding interest in the law. She attended the University of Pennsylvania Law School, serving on the law review as an articles editor and interning for Judge Jan E. Dubois. She then served as a law clerk for the late Judge Robert S. Gawthrop, III, of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

After clerking she became an associate, then partner, at the law firm of Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis LLP where she developed a wide-ranging complex civil litigation practice. She then served as the General Counsel for the School District of Philadelphia before returning to the private practice of law as a shareholder at Hanglely Aronchick Segal Pudlin & Schiller. Each year from 2008 through 2014 she was selected by the publication *Best Lawyers in America* as a Best Lawyer in America in the field of Education Law and in 2012 she was first named as one of the top 250 women in litigation in the United States by the *Benchmark* publication.

Judge Beetlestone has been active in numerous community and professional organizations. Shortly before taking the bench, she served as the President of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation, on the executive committee of the Board of Trustees of Philadelphia University, and as a member of Pennsylvania's State Board of Education.

In 2019 she was awarded two honorary degrees – from Drexel University and from Liverpool University.

She was nominated to the bench by President Barack Obama on June 16, 2014, was confirmed by unanimous voice vote by the United States Senate on November 20, 2014, and received her judicial commission on November 21, 2014.

In 2023, she was appointed as Chancellor of the University of Liverpool – the titular and ceremonial figurehead of the University.

Judge Beetlestone became Chief Judge of the Court on August 1, 2025.