



Mark A. Kearney

Born: 1962, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

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 J. Curtis Joyner.

Confirmed by the Senate on December 3, 2014, and received commission on December 4, 2014.

Education:

Villanova University, B.A., 1984

Villanova University School of Law, J.D., 1987

Professional Career:

Law Clerk, Hon. Maurice A. Hartnett, III, Delaware Court of Chancery: 1987-1988

Private Practice, Philadelphia and Blue Bell, Pennsylvania and Wilmington, Delaware: 1988-2014

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Judicial Biography

On December 4, 2014, following a unanimous voice vote in the United States Senate, President Barack Obama commissioned Mark A. Kearney as the 100th judge in the history of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Judge Kearney received his B.A. in Economics and English with honors followed by his J.D. from Villanova University in 1987, where he presently serves on Villanova Law School's Board of Consultors. Following law school, he served as a judicial law clerk for the Delaware Court of Chancery. A member of the Delaware and Pennsylvania Bars, he is published as a lead author on Delaware fiduciary standards in two editions of the Villanova Law Review (1995, 1996). Judge Kearney, along with Judge Sanchez, most recently published "A Federal Trial Court's Evolving Responsibilities to the Rule of Law" in the Temple Law Review, Vol. 97:4

(Summer 2025). He served while in practice as multi-year contributing editor to Butterworths Journal of International Banking and Financial Law, where he wrote extensively on commercial, banking and corporate litigation for the international legal and financial community. A sampling of his many law articles include: “The Poison Pill as Shield and Gavel”; “The Redemption of Poison Pills: The New Battleground”; “Update on Target Auctions and Poison Pills”; “Paramount v. Time: New Options for Directors with Long Term Plans”; “Foreign Sovereign Investment in the United States”; “Advisors Gain New Immunity from Racketeering Statutes”; “The Evolving Standard of Scrutiny Applied to Directors’ Decisions”; and, “Cede III: Towards a Clear Standard for Corporate Fiduciaries.”

The 2014-2015 President of the Pennsylvania Bar Institute and 2009 President of the 2200-member Montgomery Bar Association, his national law practice from 1988 to 2014 concentrated in commercial, financial, employment and consumer litigation with special emphasis on the representation of business owners, investors, directors and officers. His law partners repeatedly elected or appointed him to serve as Corporate Secretary and a managing and hiring shareholder of the Mid-Atlantic firm Elliott Greenleaf before joining the District Court. His varied experience included serving as lead counsel for both plaintiffs and defendants in class actions, multidistrict litigations, mass tort actions, and in regulatory investigations throughout the United States. The Montgomery Bar Association honored him as the 2014 Trial Lawyer of the Year. He was repeatedly elected (2011-2015) as a Top 100 lawyer in Pennsylvania and in the Philadelphia Metropolitan area by Thomson Reuters. Benchmark Litigation selected him as one of the top 50 “Litigation Stars” in Pennsylvania for 2013 and 2014. He received the highest peer rating of AV from Martindale-Hubbell since he became eligible in 1992. The United States District Court appointed Judge Kearney in 2012 to the Lawyers Advisory Committee of the Judicial Council for the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

As an active judge member of the District Court, he presently serves on the National Judicial Conference Committee on Court Administration and Case Management, the Court of Appeals’ Courts in the Community Committee, and as the Chair of the District Court’s Public Relations and Community Outreach Committee. He also serves on the Executive Committee of the Federal Judges Association and co-Chair of Judicial Pay and Benefits, the Circuit representative on the Annenberg Center’s Civics Education national project, long-time Chair of the Pennsylvania Bar Association’s Law Related Education Committee and Vice-Chair of the Bar’s Federal Practice Committee.

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Biographical Materials

1. “A Federal Trial Court’s Evolving Responsibilities to the Rule of Law” in the Temple Law Review, Vol. 97:4 (Summer 2025).¹

¹ Produced with the permission of Temple University Beasley School of Law. Originally published in Temple Law Review Vol. 97, Issue 4.

