

Cynthia M. Rufe

Born: 1948, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

**Federal Judicial Service:**

Judge, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania  
Nominated by George W. Bush on January 23, 2002, to a seat vacated by Norma L. Shapiro.  
Confirmed by the Senate on April 30, 2002, and received commission on May 3, 2002.  
Assumed senior status on December 31, 2021.

**Education:**

Adelphi University, B.A., 1970  
State University of New York at Buffalo Law School, J.D., 1977

**Professional Career:**

Bucks County, Pennsylvania Public Defender's Office: 1977-1982; Assistant and Coordinator,  
Juvenile Division: 1977-1982; Deputy Public Defender: 1980-1981  
Solicitor, Bucks County, Pennsylvania Children and Youth Social Services Agency: 1984-1988  
Private Practice, Pennsylvania: 1982-1993  
Judge, Court of Common Pleas of Bucks County, Pennsylvania: 1994-2002

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Judicial Biography

Judge Rufe attended college at Adelphi University and attended law school at the State University of New York at Buffalo Law School.

Before becoming a judge, she served in the Bucks County Public Defender Office where she represented delinquent, dependent, abused and neglected children. She was a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Bucks County before her nomination and appointment in 2002 as a judge of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Judge Rufe has devoted her career to representing and serving those most in need including domestic abuse victims, disadvantaged children, and those in need of mental health services; to fairly upholding the law for all; and to being a positive role model and example for not only young women and girls seeking to achieve leadership roles, but for young people everywhere looking to engage in civic roles in their communities.

The Eastern District of Pennsylvania's outreach efforts under Judge Rufe's direction have earned national recognition as models of court and law-related educational programs. In her leadership role, she also speaks on diversity and inclusion, particularly in the legal profession. She has served as President of the Federal Judges Association.

For many years, Judge Rufe was an active board member of several community agencies related to the improvement of youth, families, protection from abuse, chemical addiction, and mental health. She was a founding member of the Organization to Prevent Teenage Suicide, and a former member and past President of Soroptimist International of Indian Rock, Inc., a service organization well known locally and internationally. She has been recognized and honored by several organizations for her work to end domestic violence, especially as it affects children, for her outstanding contributions to the ideals of law and justice for all citizens, and as a woman in law who serves as a role model and mentor in the legal profession.

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