

# A Decade of Fairness: Celebrating 10 Years of Advancing Equal Justice under the Law

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Mimi McCormick, left, and Hon. Marjorie Rendell, Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit



Pennsylvania Supreme Court Chief Justice Ronald Castille

On June 5, 2013, Duquesne University School of Law hosted a special program to mark the 10th anniversary of the *Final Report of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court Committee on Racial and Gender Bias in the Justice System*.

Associate Dean Nancy Perkins welcomed guests on behalf of the School of Law. The Hon. Marjorie O. Rendell, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, served as keynote speaker. Chief Justice Ronald D. Castille, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, offered remarks in tribute to the late Chief Justice Ralph J. Cappy for his commitment to equal justice and for establishing the Pennsylvania Interbranch Commission for Gender, Racial, and Ethnic Fairness. The Hon. Debra M. Todd, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, and the Hon. Kim Berkeley Clark, Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas, also offered remarks, as did Pennsylvania Interbranch Commission Co-chairs Lynn Marks and Roberta Liebenberg and Executive Director (and adjunct law professor) Lisette “Mimi” McCormick, L’81.

The event also recognized the original members of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court Committee on Racial and Gender Bias in the Justice System.

Ten years ago, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court Committee on Racial and Gender Bias in the Justice System issued a report of its findings and recommendations. The Pennsylvania Interbranch Commission for Gender, Racial, and Ethnic Fairness was born out of this initiative to act upon the report’s recommendations.

“The pursuit of fair and equal justice is a noble cause,” Chief Justice Castille said. “The work of the Interbranch Commission has not only enhanced the reputation of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania throughout the country, but has helped ensure in its

residents that critical sense of trust in their system of justice that is fundamental to any civilized society.”

“Although I am proud that we have succeeded in laying the groundwork for what must be done to establish equity in our justice system, I am acutely aware that there is much more to be accomplished over the next decade,” said McCormick. “This includes setting in place monitoring procedures and systems to ensure fairness in our courts, and achieving additional statewide reforms in areas such as indigent defense, jury diversity and capital justice.”

On Oct. 11, McCormick was one of four alumni inducted into the University’s Century Club.

The Century Club was established during Duquesne’s 100th anniversary in 1978 to recognize graduates with exemplary records of professional achievement and service to the University and community. Of the more than 88,000 alumni, only 317 have been admitted to its elite ranks. 📌



McCormick with public interest fellows before the Century Club dinner.