

United States Courts for the Third Judicial Circuit

October 1, 2018

VICE PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN RECOGNIZED WITH AWARD FOR EXEMPLARY SERVICE TO THE THIRD CIRCUIT

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA—Chief Judge D. Brooks Smith of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit has announced that former Vice President of the United States Joseph R. Biden, Jr. will be the first-ever recipient of an award named in his honor – the Joseph R. Biden, Jr. Award for Exemplary Service to the Third Circuit. Chief Judge Smith will present the award at a luncheon meeting attended by the judges of all federal courts within the Third Circuit on October 18, 2018, at the Hotel DuPont in Wilmington, Delaware.

In announcing the award presentation, Chief Judge Smith made the following statement: “I am extremely pleased that Vice President Biden has agreed to accept the inaugural award which will bear his name. As a veteran U.S. Senator and as a former Senate Judiciary Committee chairman, Vice President Biden has for decades been a friend, supporter, and defender of an independent federal judiciary. Over those years, his commitment to the courts and judges within the Third Circuit has been unflinching. This is a small way for the Third Circuit family to say ‘thank you.’”

Biden served as the 47th Vice President of the United States from 2009 to 2017, and his connections to the Third Circuit are broad and deep. He is a native of Scranton, Pennsylvania, and a long-time Delawarean. First elected as a senator

from Delaware in 1972, he served in that body for thirty-six years, next becoming its presiding officer when he assumed the office of Vice President. During that long Senate tenure, he had a role in the confirmation of 1,896 Article III judges, 166 of whom went on to serve the district courts and the court of appeals of the Third Circuit. As a U.S. Senator, Biden was a force in a wealth of legislative measures affecting the courts, including the Civil Justice Reform Act.

The Biden Award recognizes outstanding service in promoting the cause of justice and the work of the courts within the Third Judicial Circuit. Future awardees will be honored every few years at Third Circuit Judicial Conference meetings. The Circuit is made up of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit and the District and Bankruptcy Courts of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. It is headquartered in Philadelphia.