

**UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE THIRD CIRCUIT**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 6, 2024

PHILADELPHIA – Chief Judge Michael A. Chagares of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit announced today that the Third Circuit library located in the Joseph F. Weis, Jr. Courthouse in Pittsburgh will be renamed in honor of former Third Circuit Judge Carol Los Mansmann. A ceremony dedicating the new Mansmann Library will be held at the Weis Courthouse on November 14, 2024.

“Judge Carol Los Mansmann was a trailblazing lawyer and judge whose imprint on the legal community continues to be felt in Western Pennsylvania and throughout the Third Circuit,” said Chief Judge Chagares. “She served with distinction as a judge of both the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania and the Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. Judge Mansmann is remembered for her warmth, intellect, and tireless dedication to the work of the federal judiciary. Renaming our library in Pittsburgh to honor Judge Mansmann is a fitting tribute to a judge who cared deeply about legal education and who taught and inspired so many lawyers in Allegheny County and beyond.”

Carol Los Mansmann was a native and “daughter” of Pittsburgh, as her former colleague Judge Ruggero J. Aldisert fondly described her. She earned a B.A. degree from Duquesne University in 1964 and a J.D degree from Duquesne University School of Law in 1967, graduating as one of only two women in her law school class. She began her career as a law clerk for the Honorable Ralph H. Smith Jr., of the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas. Judge Mansmann

then served as an Assistant District Attorney for Allegheny County from 1968-1972, distinguishing herself as the first woman prosecutor in Allegheny County to win a conviction in a murder case. Judge Mansmann also argued three cases in the United States Supreme Court before age thirty and was the youngest woman to argue a case before the High Court, in 1970. Judge Mansmann engaged in the private practice of law from 1973-1979 and served as a Special Assistant to the Attorney General for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania from 1974-1979. A passionate teacher and mentor, Judge Mansmann was as an Associate Professor at the Duquesne University School of Law from 1974-1983 and later an Adjunct Professor at Duquesne Law from 1987-1994.

In 1982, President Ronald Reagan appointed Judge Mansmann, then age thirty-nine, to the District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania. Judge Mansmann was the first woman to serve on the federal trial court in Western Pennsylvania. In 1985, President Reagan appointed her to a seat on the Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. Judge Mansmann was the second woman appointed to the Third Circuit. Judge Mansmann served on the Court of Appeals for seventeen years until her untimely passing on March 9, 2002, at age fifty-nine, after a long and courageous battle with breast cancer.

During her lifetime, Judge Mansmann was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by Widener University School of Law, an Honorary Doctorate by LaRoche College, and the Susan B. Anthony Award by the Women's Bar Association of Western Pennsylvania. In a testament to her continuing legacy as a force for equality in the law, The Carol Los Mansmann Helping Hand Award is given annually by the Allegheny County Bar Association to an individual who embodies Judge Mansmann's values and dedication to advancing and improving women lawyers' roles in the legal profession.

“Beyond the excellence and professionalism that she brought to all aspects of her life’s work, Carol Mansmann’s lasting legacy to our profession and to our community was as an extraordinary champion of and mentor to generations of lawyers, especially those just entering the practice of law,” said Chief Judge Mark R. Hornak of the District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania. “By her example and with her personal engagement, she encouraged them to dedicate their lives and careers to the service of others and to the cause of justice for all. Naming the federal law library in Pittsburgh in her honor will provide a living reminder of her extraordinary service and contributions to our profession.”

The Third Circuit is comprised of the federal courts within Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The Third Circuit libraries consist of a headquarters in Philadelphia and eight branch libraries located in federal courthouses in Camden, Harrisburg, Newark, Pittsburgh, St. Croix, St. Thomas, Trenton, and Wilmington. In addition to serving judges and court staff throughout the Third Circuit, the libraries are open to the public Monday through Friday.

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