

**The Federal Court Family and IndyBar's Women & the Law Division
Celebrate Women's History Month with**

***Retired Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor:
Raising the Bar and Drawing a Line***

Wednesday, March 12, 2025, at 3:00 PM

The United States District Court, Bankruptcy Court, and Probation Office for the Southern District of Indiana and the Indianapolis Bar Association's Women & the Law Division are proud to celebrate Women's History Month with a special event on **Wednesday, March 12, 2025, at 3:00 pm**. The hour-long program will be held in **Courtroom 202 at the Birch Bayh Federal Building and United States Courthouse, 46 East Ohio Street, Indianapolis, Indiana**.

In a question-and-answer format, District Judge Jane E. Magnus-Stinson will interview Chief Justice (retired) Maureen O'Connor from the State of Ohio. Chief Justice O'Connor will share her insights on the consequences of partisan elections for state Supreme Court Justices, as well as the role of the judicial branch in combatting the opioid epidemic, substance abuse, and mental health disorders, and in addressing bail reform. Chief Justice O'Connor's post-retirement activities involving redistricting and Ohio's ballot initiative provisions will also be discussed.

Attendees are invited to enjoy a reception following the event. A virtual option is available for those who cannot attend in person. One hour of Continuing Legal Education credit has been approved.

Maureen O'Connor was the tenth chief justice of the Supreme Court of Ohio and the first woman to lead the state judicial branch of government and is presently a Charles F. Kettering Foundation senior fellow. O'Connor first joined the Ohio Supreme Court in 2003, becoming the 148th justice and giving the court its first-ever female majority. Upon her retirement from the court, O'Connor became the longest-serving statewide elected woman in Ohio history.

O'Connor is a graduate of the Cleveland State University College of Law and a member of its hall of fame. O'Connor has led significant reforms and improvements in the Ohio judicial system and is a leader nationally. Her commitment to modernization of the courts across the state is unmatched. Since 2015, she has endowed Ohio local courts with more than \$35 million to add and enhance technology. This funding has increased access to justice for litigants, defendants, and the public. Her foresight made Ohio a leader in its ability to continue to administer justice through the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

O'Connor has worked to improve fairness in the judicial system. She was selected by her peers in the Conference of Chief Justices and the Conference of State Court Administrators to co-chair the National Task Force on Fines, Fees, and Bail Practices in 2016. She is past president of the national Conference of Chief Justices and former board chair of the National Center for State Courts. She was a 2024 recipient of the [Brennan Legacy Award](#), from the [Brennan Center for Justice](#), for her relentless efforts to combat gerrymandering and uphold the principles of democracy in Ohio. This included her work spearheading [Citizens Not Politicians](#), a constitutional amendment campaign to reform redistricting in Ohio.

The event is free and open to the public, but pre-registration is required. Please register at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/womenshistory2025> to reserve a space and indicate whether you will attend in person or virtually. Those attending virtually will receive the link upon registration, and again the day before the program with instructions on how to connect via Zoom.