

U.S. DISTRICT COURT



DISTRICT OF MAINE

**D. BROCK HORNBY TAKES INACTIVE SENIOR STATUS**

On February 28, 2022, the Honorable D. Brock Hornby, Senior U.S. District Judge, will take inactive senior status following thirty-six years of service on this Court.



President George H. W. Bush appointed Judge Hornby to the Court on April 30, 1990. Born in Brandon, Manitoba, Canada, Hornby graduated from the University of Western Ontario and studied Near Eastern Languages at Harvard Graduate School before turning to law. He graduated from Harvard Law School where he was an officer of the Law Review, and then clerked for U.S. Circuit Judge John Minor Wisdom. He was also an associate professor at the University of Virginia School of Law, the youngest person at that point to achieve tenure. In 1973, Judge Hornby became a naturalized U.S. citizen.

From 1974 to 1982, Judge Hornby practiced law and became a partner at Perkins, Thompson, Hinckley & Keddy. In 1982, U.S. District Judge Edward Thaxter Gignoux appointed Judge Hornby as the first full-time U.S. Magistrate Judge for the District of Maine. In 1988, then-Governor John R. McKernan, Jr. appointed Judge Hornby as an Associate Justice of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court, where he served until his appointment as U.S. District Judge for the District of Maine. Judge Hornby served as the Chief Judge of the District of Maine from 1996 to 2003.

Judge Hornby's contributions to judicial administration, education, and the law are extensive. He chaired the U.S. Judicial Conference Committee on Court Administration and Case Management and served on the Executive Committee. He chaired the Judicial Conference's Committee on the Judicial Branch. He is a fellow of the American Bar Association and Council Member Emeritus of the American Law Institute. He was also a member of the National Academies Standing Committee on Science, Technology, and Law. Judge Hornby is the author of the ongoing series *Fables in Law* published by the Green Bag.

In 2009, Judge Hornby was awarded the Devitt Distinguished Service to Justice Award from the American Judicature Society. The award is named for the late Edward J. Devitt, longtime chief judge of the U.S. District Court for the District of Minnesota. The award, made annually, honors Article III judges whose careers have been exemplary, measured by their significant contributions to the administration of justice, the advancement of the rule of law, and the improvement of society as a whole.

In 2010, Judge Hornby elected to take active senior status, which permits Article III judges to reduce their workload after meeting the federal judiciary's age and service

requirements. Judge Hornby's decision to take senior status did not affect his commitment to the District Court. He maintained a full caseload as a senior district judge.

Judge Hornby is highly regarded by the Judges and staff of the District of Maine for his kindness, humility, intellect, integrity, respect for lawyers and litigants, and contributions to understanding the law. In May of 1990, U.S. Circuit Judge John Minor Wisdom wrote of Judge Hornby's appointment as a U.S. District Judge:

[But] Brock stands alone. His exceptionally brilliant legal mind, his balanced judgment, and his attributes as a fine human being put him in a class by himself. I have always known that Brock Hornby would make an outstanding teacher, lawyer, civic leader, and judge.

Judge Hornby looks forward to spending more time with his wife, children, and grandchildren and traveling the world. The U.S. District Court for the District of Maine is grateful for Judge Hornby's service to this Court.