



Virginia Long

Counsel

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Retired New Jersey Supreme Court Justice Virginia Long joined Fox Rothschild in March 2012 after 15 years on the Appellate Division and 12 years as a pivotal player on the Supreme Court.

At Fox Rothschild, Long devotes her efforts to assisting clients with ethics and appellate matters, corporate governance and governmental integrity investigations and to serving as a mediator and arbitrator providing dispute resolution alternatives in civil and matrimonial cases. She also spearheads the firm's pro bono efforts in New Jersey. She is a member of the Governor's Judicial Advisory Panel and co-chaired the Attorney General's Conviction Review/Cold Case Commission.

A respected member of the New Jersey bar for more than 40 years, Long was appointed to the state's high court in 1999 by Governor Christine Todd Whitman. In that capacity, she authored many opinions, challenging the imposition of the death penalty, which she believed was impossible to apply rationally and consistently. Her matrimonial opinions were numerous and changed the landscape of the practice such that a matrimonial Inn of Court was named in her honor.

Long's 2000 judicial opinions impacted the lives of people statewide and addressed such topics as establishing standards for a determination of who constitutes a "psychological parent;" determining that the refusal to renew the employment contract of an employee over the age of 70 violated the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination; first recognizing PTSD as a basis for workers compensation and disability retirement benefits. She also penned a number of ground breaking land use opinions and numerous insurance opinions including several regarding risk allocation in long tail environmental exposure cases.

Before Fox Rothschild

Long began her career as a Deputy Attorney General and later served as Director of the New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs and as Commissioner of the former New Jersey Department of Banking. She also practiced law at the firm of Pitney, Hardin and Kipp.

In 1978, Gov. Brendan T. Byrne appointed her to the New Jersey Superior Court, where she presided over civil, criminal and family law cases. From 1983 to 1984, she was the General Equity judge for Mercer, Somerset and Hunterdon counties. In 1984, Chief Justice Robert N. Wilentz elevated her to the Appellate Division, where she became a presiding judge in 1995.



Long was appointed to the New Jersey Supreme Court in 1999 and was confirmed by the Senate for a second term and granted tenure in 2006. She chaired and served as a member of numerous Supreme Court committees, including Extra-judicial Activities and Judicial Performance. She retired on March 1, 2012, when she reached the age of mandatory retirement.

Beyond Fox Rothschild

Justice Long was appointed in 2018 by New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy to serve on the Judicial Advisory Panel. Comprised of former jurists and practicing attorneys, the panel assists the governor in evaluating candidates for judgeships.

Honors & Awards

Justice Long has been recognized with several prestigious awards including:

- Lifetime Achievement award, New Jersey Law Journal (2017)
- Roger N. Baldwin Award, American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey (2014)
- Mary Philbrook Public Interest Award, Rutgers School of Law (2013)
- Honorary Doctor of Law, Rutgers University (2013)
- Rutgers University Commencement Speaker (2013)
- New Jersey State Bar Association James J. McLaughlin Award for Civility, Legal Competence and Professionalism (2013)
- New Jersey State Bar Association Marie L. Garibaldi Award for Distinguished Service and Excellence (2012)
- New Jersey Psychiatric Association Citizen of the Year Award for establishing the DSM-IV standard in Posttraumatic Stress Disorder cases (2012)
- New Jersey State Bar Association Serpentelli Award for Significant Contributions to the Development of Family Law (2012)
- Rutgers University Hall of Distinguished Alumni (2001)
- Douglass College New Jersey Women of Achievement Award (2001)
- Seton Hall Law School Woman of Substance Award (2000)
- Rutgers School of Law Fannie Bear Besser Award for Public Service (1999)

Practice Areas

- Litigation
- Law Firms & Attorneys
- Family Law
- Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Appellate Practice

Bar Admissions

- New Jersey

Court Admissions

- U.S. Supreme Court



- U.S. Court of Appeals, Third Circuit
- U.S. District Court, District of New Jersey
- New Jersey Supreme Court

Education

- Rutgers Law School (J.D., 1966)
- Dunbarton College of Holy Cross (B.A., 1963)

Memberships

- Advisory Committee on Judicial Conduct, Chair, 2014 to present; Vice Chair 2013 to 2014
- Governor's Judicial Advisory Panel, 2018 to present
- Conviction Review/Cold Case Commission, Co-Chair, 2018 to present
- Supreme Court Working Group to Study Judges' Use of Social Media, Chair, 2017 to present
- American Law Institute
- National Advisory Board, William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy, 2015 to present
- New Jersey State Bar Association, Blue Ribbon Commission on Unmet Legal Needs, Co-chair, 2014 to present
- Supreme Court Special Committee on attorney ethics to review ABA model rules on professional conduct, 2013 to present
- New Jersey Law Revision Commission, 2012 to present
- New Jersey Law Journal, Editorial Board, 2012 to present
- American Bar Foundation, Fellow, 1984 to present
- New Jersey State Bar Association, 1966 to present
- National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals, New Jersey Chapter

Board of Directors

- Legal Services of New Jersey, Board of Trustees, 2012 to present
- Centurion Ministries, 2012 to 2018
- Deborah Heart and Lung Center Board of Trustees, 2012 to 2018
- Stuart Country Day School of the Sacred Heart, 1989 to 1996