

JUDGE DIANE O. LEASURE (RET.)
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Judge Diane O. Leasure is retired from the 5th Judicial Circuit (Howard, Anne Arundel and Carroll counties) where she served as the Fifth Circuit Administrative Judge and the County Administrative Judge for the Circuit Court for Howard County for almost 10 years. Prior to her 16 years as a Circuit Court judge, she was a Principal of Fossett & Brugger, Chartered where she was the Chair of the Litigation Practice Group. Her practice was primarily concentrated in the areas of construction, business, and franchise litigation.

Judge Leasure was a member of the Conference of Circuit Judges, including serving as its Chair in 2008-2010, was a member of the Judicial Cabinet and the Judicial Council and was an Inaugural Science and Technology Fellow in The Advanced Science and Technology Adjudication Resource Center (ASTAR). During her tenure on the bench, she served on and chaired numerous judiciary committees. She continues to serve as a faculty member for the Judicial College and other CLE programs. Judge Leasure is a Past President of the Prince George's County Bar Association, the Howard County Bar Association, and the Honorable James McGill Inn of Court.

After her retirement from the bench, she was appointed by the Governor to serve as Chair of the Maryland State Commission on Criminal Sentencing Policy and to serve as a member of the State Advisory Council on Administrative Hearings.

Since 2012, Judge Leasure has served as a mediator for the Court of Special Appeals' mediation program. In addition to serving as a Senior Judge, she served as a Senior Adjunct Faculty Member at the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law. She has a private mediation and arbitration practice and to date has conducted hundreds of mediations and arbitrations. She mediates cases pending (or anticipated to be filed) in both state and federal courts. Judge Leasure is a member of the Maryland Program for Mediator Excellence. She received her mediation training through the American Bar Association's 40-Hour National Mediation Training for Judges taught by faculty from Pepperdine University's Straus Institute and has taken advanced mediation courses offered by the Straus Institute in conjunction with the University of Vermont School of Law and the Center for Dispute Resolution at Maryland Carey School of Law.

Judge Leasure's honors include the Anselm Sodaro Judicial Civility Award from the Maryland State Bar Association, The Connie Sapp Award from the Women's Bar Association of Howard County, The Beverly Groner Family Law Award from the Maryland State Bar Association's Family and Juvenile Law Section Council, the

Women's Law Center of Maryland's Rosalyn B. Bell Award and The Daily Record's Leadership in Law award. She was selected as one of The Daily Record's Top 100 Women three times, culminating in her induction into The Circle of Excellence. Judge Leasure was the recipient of the 2014 Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Award from the Student Bar Association of the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law.

In 2020, Judge Leasure was inducted into the National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals (Maryland Chapter).