

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
**WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

**Brandy S. Lonchena**  
Clerk of Court

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December 8, 2025

**For Immediate Release**

**THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA WELCOMES THE HONORABLE  
CATHY BISSOON AS CHIEF JUDGE**

On December 7, 2025, United States District Judge Cathy Bissoon assumed the duties of Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania. Chief Judge Bissoon succeeds Judge Mark R. Hornak, who served as Chief Judge from 2018 to 2025.

Judge Bissoon has served as a U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania since her appointment on October 20, 2011. Prior to becoming a District Judge, she served as a U.S. Magistrate Judge beginning in 2008. With her appointment, Judge Bissoon became the first Hispanic female Article III judge in Pennsylvania, the first Asian American Article III judge in Pennsylvania and the first South Asian American female Article III judge in the United States. Judge Bissoon graduated *summa cum laude* from Alfred University in 1990 and received her law degree from Harvard Law School in 1993. Following law school, Judge Bissoon began her legal career in Pittsburgh as a civil litigator concentrating in labor and employment law. During a one-year sabbatical in 1994, she clerked for the late Chief Judge Gary L. Lancaster of the Western District of Pennsylvania.

As a judge, she has been actively involved in the legal community. She is a recognized leader in the field of intellectual property, serves on the Executive Committee of both the American Bar Association's (ABA) National Conference of Federal Trial Judges and the Federal Judges Association, is the Chair of the Wendell G. Freeland Society. She was also appointed by Chief Justice Roberts to the Judicial Conference's Advisory Committee on Civil Rules, which is charged with evaluating issues related to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and proposing amendments to those Rules, if necessary.

Judge Bissoon's involvement in the Pittsburgh community has included service on the Boards of the Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium, the Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens, the Girl Scouts of Western Pennsylvania, the Mt. Lebanon Teen Center, and the Sheldon Calvary Camp.

Judge Bissoon is looking forward to this new opportunity to serve the judiciary, the people of the Western District of Pennsylvania and the people of the United States.

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