

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH  
OF  
**HON. PENNY M. WOLFGANG**

PENNY M. WOLFGANG recently retired Justice of the New York State Supreme Court having been re-elected in 1999 to a second 14 year term of office.

Prior to her election to Supreme Court, she served as an Erie County Judge.

Judge Wolfgang has been a pioneer for women in the legal profession throughout her entire career. Judge Wolfgang was the first woman elected President of the Judges and Police Conference and also was a Past President of the Women Lawyers of WNY. As the Chief of the Legal Aid Appeals Division and Prisoners Legal Assistance Project, she was one of the first women attorneys to represent inmates in Attica in legal hearings. In 2003 she was appointed to chair the Erie County Alternatives to Incarceration Advisory Board, which is designed to help non-violent offenders become contributing members of society.

Over the years, she has mentored other women who have succeeded in becoming Judges. She was instrumental in establishing an exchange program between the Bar Association of our sister city of Lille, France and the Erie County Bar Association. Several attorneys from France have interned with her at the NYS Supreme Court as well as in local law firms.

She has received recognition from many groups including being a recipient of the 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District's Outstanding Women in the Law Award in 2011; the University of Buffalo Community-University Awards to Honor Outstanding Women and was a nominee for the Buffalo Niagara Partnership Athena Award which honors a member of the community who personifies the highest level of professional excellence and demonstrates a strong commitment to

promoting leadership opportunities to women.

She is perhaps best known to many Western New Yorkers as the moderator of various public service programs on radio and TV. She may also be remembered for her prior series, "The Law and You" and her legal segments on WGRZ-TV's "Common Grounds" as well as a cable TV show which covered legal subjects of interest to the community. She currently hosts a weekly one-half hour public service radio show on WLKK, WWKB, WKSE and WTSS and makes frequent appearances on other local television programs.