

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**April 4, 2016**

From the Chambers of Theodore A. McKee,  
Chief Judge  
United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit

It is with a profound sense of regret, but with sincere understanding and appreciation, that I announce the decision of our colleague, the Honorable Dolores K. Sloviter, to assume inactive status as a judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. Judge Sloviter has advised me that she made this difficult decision due to a serious medical condition with her eyes and therefore, at her request, she will cease participation in hearing cases, effective today. My colleagues and I will sorely miss the contributions of our esteemed colleague. Her judicial tenure has shaped, and will continue to shape, our Court for generations to come.

Judge Sloviter is a trailblazer. The only child of Jewish immigrants, she was born and raised in Philadelphia and has remained a lifelong resident of her beloved City. She graduated from the Philadelphia High School for Girls and enrolled at Temple University, where she majored in Economics and received her undergraduate degree in 1953. At a time when few women were encouraged to enter the legal profession, Judge Sloviter enrolled at the University of Pennsylvania School of Law, where she excelled academically. She served on the Law Review and received her LL.B. degree in 1956. Judge Sloviter had a successful career as a litigation lawyer in private practice in Philadelphia before turning to teaching in a first-wave of women to enter the newly opened door to legal academia. She joined the faculty of the Temple University School of Law in 1972 and became a professor at Temple in 1974. Her talent and passion for teaching the law has left a lasting imprint on her many students and law clerks.

In 1979, President Jimmy Carter appointed Judge Sloviter to fill a newly created seat on the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. In taking the bench, Judge Sloviter became the first woman to serve on our Court of Appeals. In 1991, she became the first (and thus far only) woman to serve as the Chief Judge of this Court. Judge Sloviter performed a full seven-year term as

Chief Judge from 1991 to 1998. True to her commitment to the Court and its mission, Judge Sloviter continued to carry a full case load as an active judge for another fifteen years following her tenure as Chief Judge. Judge Sloviter decided to assume senior judge status on June 21, 2013 – exactly thirty-four years to the day from when she began her judicial tenure.

Judge Sloviter's accomplishments on the bench are too numerous to catalogue here. Among many achievements, Judge Sloviter formed a "Task Force on Equal Treatment in the Courts," which examined issues of gender and racial bias in the Third Circuit courts. Through her leadership, our Court adopted a resolution which created mechanisms that continue to help ensure fairness for litigants, employees, and staff. Judge Sloviter's caring and concern for equality in the workplace was reflected in her own practices in chambers. Judge Sloviter long ago adopted a practice of splitting one of her clerkship positions into two, part-time positions so that attorneys with families would not be forced to forego a prestigious clerkship opportunity. Her legacy of caring has shaped generations of lawyers who had the great fortune to be her students, interns, and law clerks.

Judge Sloviter is a true legal giant. Her contribution to the Court and the legal profession cannot be diminished. I speak for the entire Court family in wishing Judge Sloviter good health, and in thanking her for all that she has done for the Third Circuit. We expect and hope that she will continue to play an active role in the life of the Court through participation on court committees and other duties.