

## **Professional Bio of the Hon. Jeffery A. Deller**

United States Bankruptcy Judge  
Western District of Pennsylvania

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The Honorable Jeffery A. Deller is a Federal Judge who has served on the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania (the “Court”) since 2005. From 2013 to 2018, Judge Deller served as Chief Judge of the Court. In this position, Chief Judge Deller was the lead judicial officer assigned to over 40,000 cases and oversaw the day to day operations of the Court.

Some of the notable cases over which he has presided include the corporate restructuring of the iconic hotel formerly known as the Pittsburgh Hilton, the sale of natural gas and exploration company Rex Energy and its affiliates, the reorganization of the Pittsburgh Riverhounds professional soccer team, the sale of the historic Pittsburgh Athletic Association, the reorganization of Pittsburgh’s largest taxi operator Pittsburgh Transportation Group, and the reorganization of the Trustees of Conneaut Lake Park, Inc. Judge Deller also served as the judicial mediator in hundreds matters, including mediating most of the avoidance actions arising out of one the largest financial fraud cases in the Western District of Pennsylvania, Le-Nature’s, Inc.

As the District’s Chief U.S. Bankruptcy Judge, Judge Deller sat regularly as an observer to the Board of Judges for the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania. He also served on a number of District Court committees such as: the Strategic Planning Committee, the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Budget, the Historical Committee, the Public Outreach Committee, and the Joint IT Committee. Chief Circuit Judge D. Brooks Smith recently appointed Judge Deller to the Third Circuit Judicial Council Bankruptcy Committee.

In 2018, Judge Deller also supervised, planned, and organized the widely acclaimed Bicentennial Celebration of the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania. Nationally, Judge Deller served as a member of the Chief Judge Advisory Committee with the Federal Judicial Center in Washington, D.C. Currently, Judge Deller is a member of the Board of Governors of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges.

Judge Deller served as Editor-in-Chief of the prestigious *American Bankruptcy Law Journal* and in the past has served as an adjunct faculty member at both the Duquesne University School of Law and the University of Pittsburgh School of Law– teaching bankruptcy related classes and the law of secured

transactions. In 2019, Judge Deller served as Chair of the Law Dean Search Committee at the Duquesne University School of Law. Today, Judge Deller is a member of the Duquesne Law Dean's Advisory Board.

Prior to his appointment to the bench, and after graduating *cum laude* and as a member of the law review from the Duquesne University School of Law, Judge Deller was an associate attorney and then shareholder at the law firm of Klett Rooney Lieber & Schorling (now known as Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney), where he practiced bankruptcy and commercial law.

When he was an attorney, Chief Judge Deller was a volunteer at the McKees Rocks Legal Clinic, which is a *pro bono* legal clinic providing services to those who could not afford to hire an attorney. Judge Deller also was a *pro bono* volunteer at the Debt Relief Clinic provided by Neighborhood Legal Services.

Chief Judge Deller is a Past President of the Bankruptcy and Commercial Law Section of the Allegheny County Bar Association. He is the recipient of various honors. They include the Outstanding Achievement Award by the Duquesne University Law Alumni Association, the Outstanding Young Lawyer Award by the Allegheny County Bar Association, the Cornell High School Wall of Fame, and he is a Fellow to the American College of Bankruptcy.

Chief Judge Deller is an Eagle Scout, and is proud to be the first person in his immediate family to attend college (graduating from the University of Pittsburgh with the B.A. in Economics and Political Science).