

## **Honorable J. Michael Eakin Biography NCMC 2013**

Justice Eakin was elected to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court in 2001, after serving six years on the Pennsylvania Superior Court. He served twelve years as District Attorney of Cumberland County from 1984-1995, and was an assistant DA for over 8 years before his election.

As a prosecutor, he was a frequent speaker at numerous state and national programs, including the state Prosecutors Associations of West Virginia, Iowa, North Carolina, and Mississippi. Named to the faculty of the National College of District Attorneys, he received their "Lecturer of Merit" Award in 1990, and addressed the 1992 National District Attorneys Association Convention on prosecutorial ethics.

Justice Eakin was president of the Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association in 1992-1993, and served as that organization's Education Chair for nine years. Admitted to practice before the federal courts as well, he successfully argued the case of *Pennsylvania v. Muniz* before the United States Supreme Court. A past Chairman of the Criminal Procedural Rules Committee, he is a member of the Bar Associations of Cumberland and Dauphin Counties, and the Cumberland County Inns of Court. He is a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association, and a frequent speaker on court procedures, advocacy, technology, and ethics for the Pennsylvania Bar institute and other program providers. In 2013, he was appointed to the Board of Trustees of the National Judicial College.

Justice Eakin served in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard, 28th Division, from 1971-1977. He is a 1970 graduate of Franklin & Marshall College, and received his law degree from the Dickinson School of Law in 1975, and serves as a member of the school's Board of Counselors. He received an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Widener University in 2005, where he is an adjunct professor of trial methods. Justice Eakin and his wife live in Elizabethtown, and he maintains his chambers in Mechanicsburg.

Known as the "Poetic Justice" for having authored various opinions and dissents in rhyme, he has been the subject of articles in national magazines, including *Horse Illustrated*, *XXL*, and *FHM*, and has been interviewed from Australia to London about these opinions, one of which hangs in the Museo Della Poesia in Tuscany. An avid fisherman, he also plays the harmonica