Allegheny County Bar Association

Women in the Law
Division to Honor Judge Eunice Ross at Oct. 6 Event

Ross, 92, was Pioneer for Women in Legal Profession

PITTSBURGH – The Hon. Eunice Ross is viewed as a pioneer for women in the legal profession in Pittsburgh and beyond. Judge Ross, 92, was among the first women to practice law in the Pittsburgh area, and later became one of the region’s first female judges.

Next Thursday, she will be honored by those women currently practicing law in Western Pennsylvania. The Allegheny County Bar Association Women in the Law Division will present “Trailblazers in Allegheny County: Honoring Judge Eunice Ross. How Far Have We Come?” on Thursday, Oct. 6, at noon at the Engineers’ Society of Western Pennsylvania.

Ross will join a panel of speakers at the event, discussing the challenges she faced as one of the area’s first female attorneys. The panel will also examine the history of women in the law in the Pittsburgh area, the rules against gender bias and harassment, how the courts have handled gender discrimination through the years. A birthday reception for the judge – who will celebrate her 93rd birthday on Oct. 13 – will be held immediately following the program.

“This is an opportunity to talk about some of the women who preceded us as lawyers, and who have actually been forgotten,” said Ross. “I will talk about what it was like to practice when most of the other attorneys were men.”

“She is a pioneer among women attorneys. The things she accomplished, despite the challenges she faced, are very admirable,” said Ziemski. “We believe the legal community today should be appreciative and knowledgeable about the women trailblazers who worked in the profession before us, especially Judge Ross, whose remarkable achievements have made a lasting impact.”

Attorney Jessica Ziemski, one of the event’s organizers, explained that the ACBA’s Women in the Law Division wanted to draw attention to the distinguished career and accomplishments of Judge Ross.

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Other speakers at the event include The Hon. Rochelle Friedman of the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court and attorneys Amy Begler, Amy Coco and Ellen Doyle.

**Media Info:** Members of the news media are invited to cover the event; arrangements must be made in advance. To request credentials, contact Brian Knavish, ACBA Director of Marketing and Media Relations, at 412-402-6620 or bknavish@acba.org.

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**Judge Eunice Ross – Biography**

Eunice Latshaw Ross was born Oct. 13, 1923 in Bellevue, Pa. She graduated from Ben Avon High School and attended the University of Pittsburgh on a full scholarship, graduating in 1945 with a Bachelor of Science degree. She later worked as Pitt’s Assistant Dean of Women and was in charge of the school’s famous Nationality Rooms.

Ross enrolled in Pitt’s law school in 1948 and graduated first in her class in 1951. Her first work as an attorney came with a Mellon-funded public health project where she helped write new Pennsylvania health and environmental laws. She then went to work in the Allegheny County court system in 1952 and held various attorney positions in the local courts for the next two decades.

She initially worked as a law clerk in what was then known as the Civil Court of Allegheny County (now the Court of Common Pleas). She then was a judicial assistant in the Allegheny County Orphans’ Court and ultimately was the director of Allegheny County Family Court.

Ross was appointed an Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas judge in December 1972 and went on to hold positions on the bench in the court’s Family and Civil divisions until November 1996. She was then appointed as a senior visiting judge in the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court, a position she held until 2004.

She also worked as a Pitt Law adjunct professor from 1967 to 1973. She held numerous board and trustee positions with Pitt and across the state and has won countless awards. Ross was married to the late John Anthony Ross. They had one daughter, the late Geraldine Ross.

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**About the ACBA**

_Neighbor in 1870 and headquartered in downtown Pittsburgh, the Allegheny County Bar Association is a professional organization with approximately 6,000 member attorneys, judges, district justices, legal administrators and paralegals._