

HON. VANESSA RUIZ

Hon. Vanessa Ruiz is Senior Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals. Before her appointment to the bench, she was Corporation Counsel (now the Attorney General) for the District of Columbia and an attorney in private practice in Washington, DC. Judge Ruiz speaks at home and internationally on judicial independence, integrity, access to justice and the indispensable leadership role of women judges. She is the President of the International Association of Women Judges and past President of the US National Association of Women Judges. Judge Ruiz sits on the Advisory Board of the UN Global Judicial Integrity Network, a platform for exchange and education for judges worldwide on judicial ethics and integrity. At the court, she chaired the Advisory Committee on Judicial Conduct. A Commissioner of the D.C. Access to Justice Commission, she has sought to enhance access for vulnerable populations, including language minorities, immigrants and unrepresented litigants. She led the American Bar Association effort to adopt national standards for language services in courts. She is a member of the American Law Institute and formerly a trustee of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Judge Ruiz was born and raised in San Juan, Puerto Rico and is a graduate of Wellesley College and Georgetown University Law Center.