

HON. JOHN R. FISHER

Judge John R. Fisher was appointed to the District of Columbia Court of Appeals in 2005 by President George W. Bush. He became a Senior Judge on August 23, 2020. Judge Fisher was born and raised in Knox County, Ohio, and graduated from Fredericktown High School. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree magna cum laude from Harvard College in 1968. He then served as an enlisted man in the U.S. Army, spending one year in South Vietnam. After his military service, Judge Fisher attended Harvard Law School, receiving his law degree cum laude in 1974.

Following law school, Judge Fisher clerked for two years for the Honorable Joseph P. Kinneary, United States District Judge for the Southern District of Ohio. He came to the District of Columbia in 1976 to join the United States Attorney's Office, serving in a variety of trial, grand jury, and appellate assignments from 1976 until 1983. Judge Fisher then served as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio from 1983 to 1986. In 1986, he became Of Counsel to the law firm of Vorys, Sater, Seymour & Pease in Columbus, Ohio, where he specialized in complex civil litigation.

Judge Fisher returned to Washington, D.C. in 1989 to become Chief of the Appellate Division of the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia, a position he held for over sixteen years. In this capacity, he supervised criminal appeals in the District of Columbia Court of Appeals and the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, managed the work of a forty-five-person division, and briefed and argued appeals, including seventeen *en banc* cases before the D.C. Court of Appeals or the D.C. Circuit. As Chief, Judge Fisher also emphasized the concept of "preventive appellate advocacy" – appellate attorneys providing advice and guidance to trial lawyers to prevent some troublesome issues from arising on appeal.

Judge Fisher is married to Margaret Fisher, a retired instructional assistant who focused on character education at an elementary school in Fairfax County. They have two children and two grandchildren.