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President Judge Rita Donovan Hathaway is a graduate of Boston State College and Duquesne University School of Law. Judge Hathaway began her legal career as a prosecutor in the Westmoreland County District Attorney's Office, where she was Chief Trial Attorney and the Supervisor of the Child Abuse and Sexual Crimes Unit.

She was elected to the Court of Common Please in 1997, and in 2018 became the first woman elected President Judge in the 230—year history of Westmoreland County. Judge Hathaway served as President of the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges in 2008-2009. She is a past member of the Ethic Committee of the Conference, and served as an appointed member of the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing from 2011-2019.

Judge Hathaway resides in Murrysville with husband. They have two children and nine grandchildren.



