

## **HONORABLE ELLEN A. PETERS**

Chief Justice Ellen A. Peters was born in Berlin, Germany on March 21, 1930. She emigrated to the United States with her parents and studied at Hunter College High School in New York.

Chief Justice Peters graduated with honors from Swarthmore College in 1951 (B.A., Phi Beta Kappa) and from the Yale Law School in 1954 (LL.B., Cum Laude). She served as a law clerk to U.S. Circuit Court Judge Charles E. Clark from 1954 to 1955 and was an Associate in Law at the University of California at Berkeley from 1955 to 1956. She distinguished herself as a Professor of Law at Yale until her appointment to the Supreme Court in 1978 and continued to teach as an Adjunct Professor from 1978 to 1984. She was admitted to the Connecticut Bar in 1957 and to the U.S. District Court for Connecticut in 1965.

In 1978, Chief Justice Peters became the first woman to be named a Justice of the Connecticut Supreme Court. On November 21, 1984, she became Chief Justice, which is the highest position in the state's judiciary.

Chief Justice Peters is the recipient of the first Ella T. Grasso Distinguished Service Medal, the 1982 Judiciary Award of the Connecticut Trial Lawyers' Association, the Yale Law School Distinguished Service Medal, and several honorary degrees, including an M.A. from Yale University in 1965, an LL.D. degree from Swarthmore College in 1983, and LL.D. degrees from the University of Hartford (1983), Georgetown University (1984), Yale University (1985), New York Law School (1985), Connecticut College (1985), Bates College (1987), Trinity College (1987), and Wesleyan University (1987).

Among her many activities has been membership on the Connecticut Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (1973-74), the American Law Institute (1970-present), the Connecticut Law Revision Commission (1978-84), the Connecticut Board of Pardons (1978-80), trusteeships at Swarthmore College (1970-81), the Yale New Haven Hospital (1981-85) and Yale University (1986-present).

She was appointed to head the Conference of Chief Justices in August 1987. Since 1993, she has been a member of the American Philosophical Society.

Chief Justice Peters has authored numerous books and articles centering on various aspects of the law of contracts, especially on commercial law under the Uniform Commercial Code.

Chief Justice Peters and her husband, Phillip I. Blumberg, a professor and former dean of the University of Connecticut School of Law, reside in West Hartford.