



STATE OF NEBRASKA WORKERS' COMPENSATION COURT

1010 LINCOLN MALL, STE. 100 • P.O. BOX 98908 • LINCOLN, NE 68509-8908 • (800) 599-5155 • (402) 471-6468 • <http://www.wcc.ne.gov/>

NEWS RELEASE For Immediate Release September 16, 2016

Contact:
James Lillis
Public Information Officer
402-471-6455
james.lillis@nebraska.gov

Judge Van Norman to retire after more than 23 years with the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Court

Judge Laureen K. Van Norman will be retiring on January 5, 2017 after serving more than 23 years on the bench of the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Court. The court extends its appreciation and thanks to Judge Van Norman for her many years of service.

Governor Ben Nelson appointed Judge Van Norman to the bench of the court on July 6, 1993. The court is composed of seven judges who are initially appointed by the governor and who then remain on the bench for successive six-year terms upon approval of the electorate. Judge Van Norman last stood for retention in 2014.

Judge Van Norman served as the court's presiding judge for just over 11 years. Her first term ran from December 13, 1995 through June 30, 1997. She then served as acting presiding judge from March 5, 2007 through June 30, 2007. On July 1, 2007, she was once again elected presiding judge and has served in that capacity for continuous terms since then. The presiding judge is selected from among the court's seven judges for a two-year term.

Following are some of the highlights of Judge Van Norman's career with the court:

- She was a driving force behind the court's electronic filing (eFiling) initiative, a massive project that officially launched in July 2015. The court's eFiling web application allows Nebraska attorneys to electronically file court pleadings with the convenience of being available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- She received the Distinguished Judge for Service to the Community award from the Nebraska Supreme Court in 2012 for her extended efforts to provide accessible, safe access to all participants in the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Court process.

- She oversaw the project, completed in July 2011, to move the court from its offices in the Nebraska State Capitol to its new location at 1010 Lincoln Mall.
- She has also served on numerous committees:

Nebraska Supreme Court: Technology Committee; Committee on Self-Represented Litigation; Judicial Branch Education (JBE) Board and Curriculum Committee; Gender Bias Task Force. She has also been a participant in the Chief Justice's annual leadership meeting since 2007.

Nebraska State Bar Association: Past Chair of the Government Practice Committee; Executive Board of Women and the Law Section.

Judge Van Norman is a graduate of University of Nebraska – Lincoln (BA, social work); University of Nebraska College of Law (JD). Prior to her appointment to the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Court, Judge Van Norman served as Legal Counsel to the Nebraska Department of Labor.

A reception will be held in Judge Van Norman's honor on Thursday, January 5, 2017, 2–4 p.m., at the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Court, 1010 Lincoln Mall, Suite 100, in Lincoln.

For more information regarding workers' compensation in Nebraska, please visit the court's website at <http://www.wcc.ne.gov>, or call the court's information line at 1-800-599-5155 or 402-471-6468.

- END -