

IN MEMORIAM: JUDITH DONOVAN DOWD

Judith Donovan Dowd, a former Administrative Law Judge at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, passed away on September 22, 2016. A native of Erie, Pennsylvania, she received a B.A. degree from Dunbarton College, a law degree from Georgetown University and an LLM in labor law from George Washington University. Judge Dowd served as a FERC administrative law judge from April 6, 1997 until her retirement on July 31, 2015.

Judge Dowd's public service career spanned multiple agencies. Following law school graduation, she became an attorney in the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Legal Counsel. She was an Assistant Corporation Counsel for the District of Columbia, eventually being promoted to Chief of the Special Litigation Division. In addition, she was a Supervisory Attorney for the Appellate Court Division of the National Labor Relations Board. After her appointment as an Administrative Law Judge, Judge Dowd served the Social Security Administration, the U.S. Postal Service, and the NLRB before arriving at FERC.

During her illustrious career at FERC, Judge Dowd presided over important hearing proceedings and served as a settlement judge in many cases.¹ She was fair and strove to be a scholar of the law. Her decisions will always be remembered for their mastery of language, stemming from her undergraduate studies as an "English" major!

Judge Dowd was active in multiple bar associations, including the Virginia Bar, the Energy Bar Association, and both the National and International Association of Women Judges. She had also served as President of the Federal Association of Administrative Law Judges.

In her spare time, Judge Dowd loved being with her family, reading, classical music, opera, and traveling. Always looking forward to her next trip, she visited Latin America, the Caribbean, and Europe multiple times. On one of these trips, she set sail for Europe aboard the *Queen Elizabeth 2*. She fondly recalled her overseas voyage, saying that traveling to Europe should only be done on transatlantic ships, where people would dress up for dinner and it would take weeks to cross the Atlantic. She appreciated the beach and spent many years in her apartment in Rehoboth. Additionally, she enjoyed visiting spas to get massages, facials—the works!

1. Examples of Judge Dowd's initial decisions include: *El Paso Natural Gas Co.*, 148 F.E.R.C. ¶ 63,014 (2014); *NorthWestern Corp.*, 140 F.E.R.C. ¶ 63,023 (2012); *New Dominion Energy Coop.*, 118 F.E.R.C. ¶ 63,024 (2007).

Supporting charities was always important to Judge Dowd, as she contributed to the Smithsonian Foundation, the Washington D.C. Art Festival, the New York City Opera, and the Roman Catholic Church. Involved in her community, she served one term as President of her homeowner association.

Judge Dowd is preceded in death by her husband, Michael J. Dowd. She is survived by her sisters Joan (Owen) Murray and Patricia Stahr, as well as many nieces, nephews, grand-nieces and nephews.

Her colleagues and the lawyers who appeared before her in FERC proceedings will always remember Judge Dowd's contributions to energy law.