

**UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE THIRD CIRCUIT**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 6, 2026

PHILADELPHIA. Chief Judge Michael A. Chagares of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit announced today that its biennial Reentry Courts Summit will be renamed in honor of Senior Circuit Judge Theodore A. McKee. The Honorable Theodore A. McKee Third Circuit Reentry Courts Summit will be held October 21-22, 2026, in the William J. Green Jr. Federal Building in Philadelphia.

In announcing the Third Circuit’s retitling of the Summit, Chief Judge Chagares shared: “As the father of the Reentry Courts Committee, I can think of no one better suited for the dedication of a namesake reentry summit than Judge McKee. Ted is an innovator in the reentry court field. Because of his thoughtful leadership, the lives of individuals under federal supervision—and the lives of their families and community members as well—have been improved. The Third Circuit’s reentry courts have become a training ground for so many other courts seeking to establish or strengthen their reentry programming. It is fitting, then, that we rename this summit, focused on learning, sharing ideas, and development, to recognize the judge who has taught us and created so much.”

Theodore A. McKee is a senior judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. He was appointed to the Court of Appeals by President Bill Clinton in 1994 and served as the chief judge of the Court from 2010 to 2016. After serving on the federal bench for 28 years, he assumed senior status in 2022. Judge McKee served as a Judge on the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas for the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania between 1984 and 1994. In the early 1980s, he worked as Philadelphia City Solicitor and then as General Counsel for the

Philadelphia Parking Authority. His entrance into public service began in 1977, when he served as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania through 1980, first in the General Crimes Unit, later in the Narcotics and Firearms Unit, and eventually in the Political Corruption Unit. From 1975 to 1977, Judge McKee engaged in private practice in Philadelphia. Judge McKee also served as a lecturer in trial advocacy at Rutgers Law School from 1980 to 1991.

During Judge McKee's judicial tenure, he endeavored to revisit the ways in which the legal profession reaches criminal justice outcomes. In 1986, the Chief Justice of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court appointed McKee to the state's Commission on Sentencing, an 11-member committee charged with the creation and maintenance of statewide sentencing policy. He would act as both the vice chair and chair of the committee. Later, while presiding as the Court of Appeals' chief judge from 2010 to 2016, Judge McKee served on the Criminal Law Committee of the United States Judicial Conference, advising on guidelines related to federal probation, pretrial services, and sentencing policy. It was during this time that Judge McKee formed the Third Circuit Judicial Council Reentry Courts Committee. Judge McKee is also an elected member of the American Law Institute (ALI) and advised on sentencing provisions within the Model Penal Code.

Judge McKee's contributions to public service include significant activities outside of the judiciary. He became involved with the Big Brothers Big Sisters of America program in 1969. He has taught in Ghana and lectured in Russia. Judge McKee serves on the boards of directors of several nonprofits and institutions, including the National Constitution Center, the Council on Criminal Justice, and the Vera Institute of Justice. He is also a member of the Board of Visitors of Temple Law School, and an honorary member of the Board of Visitors of Syracuse University

Law School, from which he matriculated in 1975 magna cum laude and as a member of the Order of the Coif and the Justinian Honorary Law Society.

It is the mission of the Third Circuit Judicial Council Reentry Courts Committee to assist and support the District Courts in the development, implementation, and improvement of reentry courts in order to assist individuals under federal supervision to successfully reenter their communities and become responsible, self-sufficient, contributing, and law-abiding citizens. The Committee provides leadership in the sharing of information, coordination of efforts, and the identification of resources to support the reentry efforts within the Third Circuit.

This will be the Committee's fifth summit, and the first bearing Judge McKee's name. The biennial summits are open to registration from judges, lawyers, legal professionals, probation and pretrial officers, volunteers, and community partners from across the Third Judicial Circuit.

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