

## UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS

CEREMONIAL MISC. No. 04-21

IN RE: THE MATTER OF THE RETIREMENT OF JOAN MORIARTY

Before BARTLEY, *Chief Judge*, and PIETSCH, GREENBERG, ALLEN, MEREDITH, TOTH, FALVEY, LAURER, and JAQUITH, *Judges*, and NEBEKER, KRAMER, HOLDAWAY, GREENE, KASOLD, HAGEL, MOORMAN, LANCE, DAVIS, and SCHOELEN, *Senior Judges*.

### ORDER

Before the Court is the matter of the retirement of Joan Moriarty, a career public servant who dedicated nearly 40 years of service to the nation, almost all of them litigating cases before the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (Court) on behalf of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Ms. Moriarty's tenure at VA predates the creation of the Court, and her ongoing efforts to develop and evolve the practice of veterans law merit special recognition.

Ms. Moriarty graduated from Mount Holyoke College and earned a law degree from Western New England University School of Law. A summer internship with the Department of Transportation (DOT) in Washington, D.C., convinced her that she wanted to live in the nation's capital and continue working for the government. She accepted a position at the VA Office of the General Counsel (OGC), serendipitously under General Counsel Donald Ivers, a future Judge on the Court. Thus began Ms. Moriarty's VA OGC career in 1985.

Early on, Ms. Moriarty's involvement in litigation would spur an interest in joining the OGC group representing the department before the newly formed Court. She served under 11 VA Secretaries (not counting several acting Secretaries) and argued and filed briefs in countless significant cases including the seminal case of *Colvin v. Derwinski*. These experiences and her professionalism resulted in her nomination by OGC and appointment by the Court to serve on its Rules Advisory Committee (RAC). Ms. Moriarty served as a RAC member from 1997 until 2004, when the Court appointed her as chair. She continued in that capacity until 2011, in all serving the RAC and the Court for more than 13 years. Courts are clearly rules-based organizations and Ms. Moriarty's service on the RAC coincided with critical developments in the Court's rules that included the transition from paper-based pleadings to electronic filing. At the same time, Ms. Moriarty was also expanding her influence on litigation generally as she progressed from a staff attorney, then senior appellate attorney, then Deputy Assistant General Counsel, and finally Deputy Chief Counsel.

Ms. Moriarty's legacy in veterans law and impact on the Court are truly inspiring and her contributions and achievements most worthy of special recognition. Upon consideration of the foregoing, it is

ORDERED that Joan Moriarty take with her our gratitude for the many years of outstanding public service she has rendered to this Court and the nation, our admiration for her many accomplishments, the warmth of our continued friendship, and our very best wishes.

DATED: September 1, 2021

PER CURIAM.