

HON. BARBARA HOWE

Judge Barbara Howe is completing her thirtieth year as a New York State judge: first in Buffalo City Court; then, from 1992 through 2003, in State Supreme Court; and since 2004, as New York State Surrogate Judge for Erie County.

Judge Howe has a bachelor's degree, with highest honors and Phi Beta Kappa, from the University of Connecticut at Storrs. She earned her master's and doctoral degrees in sociology from Cornell University, and the J.D. degree from the University at Buffalo.

Barbara Howe joined the faculty at UB in 1974 and became a tenured sociology faculty member there in 1981, then giving up her academic tenure in 1988 to join the bench. Judge Howe has maintained adjunct appointments at UB—from 2003 through 2015 as an adjunct clinical professor of law and from 1988 to the present time as an adjunct associate professor of sociology. Additionally, for the past 25 plus years, Judge Howe has regularly been an invited presenter for New York State Bar Association, Bar Association of Erie County (now Erie Institute of Law), New York State Office of Court Administration Statewide Judicial Education, and other accredited Continuing Legal Education programs for attorneys statewide and beyond.

As a professor and judge, Barbara Howe has authored numerous articles in sociology and the law; and since joining the bench, Judge Howe has had 48 of her decisions published by the New York State Reporter.

Judge Howe's work in Surrogate's Court also involves an extensive leadership role. Erie County Surrogate's Court is one of New York State's busiest courts; and almost since the beginning of her term there, in 2004, Judge Howe has been an invited member of Statewide committees that have enabled her to assist attorneys and

litigants in important ways. For example, as a member of the New York State Office of Court Administration's Legislative Advisory Group, Judge Howe was able to initiate, and then implement, legislation enabling Erie County Surrogate's Court to be the first Surrogate's Court in New York State with an e-filing option. As a member of the OCA Surrogate's Court Advisory Committee, she has played an active role in shaping legislative proposals relating to estate and Surrogate's Court practice.

Judge Barbara Howe also has undertaken leadership and stewardship roles in numerous professional organizations. She was a Board Member of the Minority Bar Association of Western New York Foundation and a past President of the New York State Chapter of the National Association of Women Judges and the Women Lawyers of Western New York. She previously was a Board Member of the Bar Foundation of Erie County's Endowment Fund Advisory Committee and a Board Member and Secretary of the Erie County Bar Foundation. In 2014, she was elected to Membership in the prestigious American Law Institute—the leading independent organization in the United States producing scholarly work to clarify, modernize, and otherwise improve the law.

Judge Howe has been a member of the Cornell Club of New York City since 1989 and she is a life member of the Albright-Knox Art Gallery and the NAACP.

