



A Nationwide Jurisdiction

Jimmie Reyna '75 helps shape legal opinion as a federal judge on the nation's second-highest court.

By Robin L. Flanigan

JIMMIE REYNA '75 WATCHED THE LIVE vote on C-Span as 86 senators, one by one, gave a thumbs-up to confirm his nomination as a circuit judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.

People he hadn't heard from in decades started calling. This wasn't just a proud mo-

ment for Reyna and his family, but a historic one for the nation. When Reyna received his commission the next day, on April 5, 2011, he became the first Latino to serve on the country's second-highest court, which has nationwide jurisdiction to hear appeals in patent law and other specialized cases.

"I didn't think there were any 'firsts' left," says Reyna, a recognized expert in interna-

tional trade, trade policy, and customs matters. "I know it's extremely meaningful, and I'm proud of it, but I don't walk around as the Latino representative. I walk around as a judge with a position of great influence, one that I approach very seriously because of its importance in the stability and safety of this country."

Established in 1982 by the merger of the United States Court of Customs and Patent Appeals and the appellate division of the United States Court of Claims, the court is unique in hearing appeals based on subject



matter and type of law rather than on the basis of the federal district in which cases may have arisen. Given its federal jurisdiction, the court's decisions can be appealed only to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Located in Washington, D.C., the court has 12 active judges, who typically consid-

▲ **EXPERT OPINION:** An expert on international trade law, Reyna is a member of the U.S. court that hears appeals based on patent disputes, trade agreements, and international issues.

er cases in panels of three. Nominated for the court by the president, judges are confirmed by the Senate.

Reyna remembers the moment, in the summer of 2010, when the Department of Justice called to announce that President Barack Obama had green-lighted his nomination process. Driving at the time from his home in Silver Spring, Md., to Delaware for vacation with his wife, **Dolores** '75, and one of their sons, he pulled onto a dirt road to hear the details. Despite the day's scorching temperature, Reyna got out of the car and leaned his forearms on the car's hot hood as he listened.

"I was frying and didn't even feel it be-

"I know it's extremely meaningful, and I'm proud of it, but I don't walk around as the Latino representative. I walk around as a judge with a position of great influence, one that I approach very seriously because of its importance in the stability and safety of this country."

cause of the excitement," he recalls. "I hung up, and everyone's staring from the air-conditioned car. I turned around and started running down that dirt road, and then I came running back, hands pumping. By the time I got back in the car, they knew what had happened."

Reyna's fascination with international relations grew out of his modest upbringing in Clovis, N.M. The son of Baptist missionaries who regularly drove with their five children to Mexico to visit relatives, he was raised to understand that both countries have a common history and overlapping interests.

He was in junior high school when he felt the pull to be a lawyer, and he began his litigation career in Albuquerque, where he handled domestic relations, civil rights, tort, and criminal defense matters, many of which were pro bono cases.

After moving his family to Maryland in search of specialized care facilities for his eldest son, who has autism, he began building a career in international trade law, one that led him to write books on the subject and to serve on panels that decided international trade disputes.

"What makes him unique is that he has a strong perseverance, and he has become an expert on matters of international trade

through his diligence and hard work," says Roman Hernandez, an attorney in Portland, Ore., who met Reyna through the Hispanic National Bar Association in 2003. "He learned that area of the law, mastered it, and became a well-regarded expert—and this was before he joined the court. I have a deep respect for him."

President of the Hispanic National Bar Association from 2006 to 2007, Reyna helped create a program to instill confidence and trust in the U.S. legal system, founded the association's *Journal of Law*, and worked with the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda, an umbrella organization serving 30 national Latino organizations. As a leader in the

American Bar Association, he served on the Presidential Commission on Diversity in the Legal Profession, helped launch and direct the U.S.-Mexico Law Institute, and was a leader in the association's Section on International Law.

Reyna says being a history major at Rochester prepared him to turn raw information into valuable research, a critical skill in his current job. He used to study with other students at the home of former history professor Winthrop Hudson, where he would read and sip hot chocolate by the fireplace. "That practicum was definitely a turning point in my education," he says.

Despite a distinguished career that has earned him wide recognition—in 2009, he received the Ohtli Award, the Mexican government's highest honor bestowed to a foreigner, for his contributions to the Hispanic community—Reyna has maintained an enthusiastic awe for his role as a federal judge and for what the position represents in the legal system.

"I come to work every day with a great sense of excitement and honor and privilege to be doing what I'm doing," he says. "It's just wonderful." **R**

Robin L. Flanigan is a Rochester-based freelance writer.



‘Champion of Change’

Maureen Roche '97, director of The Campus Kitchens Project, receives a White House honor.

By Karen McCally '02 (PhD)

“I WAS FLABBERGASTED,” SAYS **MAUREEN Roche** '97, describing her response when she learned in January that she'd been selected as a White House Champion of Change.

The director of the Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit The Campus Kitchens Project, Roche joined seven other “champions”—Americans working in innovative ways to make big impacts in their communities—in accepting the honor and taking part in a panel discussion last January 12.

New Champions of Change are honored

▲ **WASTING NOT:** Campus dining halls waste literally tons of food. Roche helps students nationwide to share the bounty with underserved communities.

each week. Roche says she was particularly moved to be named one of eight champions “following in the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr.”

“To be honored in his name—it was incredible,” she says. “This whole idea that there are people who are following in his footsteps and somebody thought that I was one of those people is really just mind-blowing.”

Roche has been at the project since 2007, and its director since 2008. “CKP” has helped students at more than 30 colleges and universities to set up community kitchens near their campuses. The idea is to tap into the bounty of college campuses—in food, energy, and talent—and share it with local communities in which access to affordable and nutritious food is a daily challenge. The project is a subsidiary of the D.C.

Central Kitchen, a community kitchen established in the nation's capitol in 1989 that carries out the dual role of serving donated food to the hungry and operating as a culinary job training program for unemployed men and women.

Roche emphasizes that students setting up campus kitchens are mastering a complex enterprise. A new kitchen, she says, is “not just a program that's going to operate for a while and then it's done. We require that it be sustainable.”

That requires that students, school administrations, and the surrounding communities all become stakeholders. For students, the demands are considerable. They establish relationships with community organizations, plan menus, organize food transport, and prepare meals. In some cases, they work directly with local farmers to establish farmers' markets and community gardens.

Robert Egger, the nationally recognized nonprofit leader who founded the D.C.

Central Kitchen, says Roche brings some unique assets to her role.

“She empowers other leaders to own the idea—so that they can interpret it in their school—and then share what they developed throughout the network.” He says she’s developed a cascading leadership model, which helps give each campus coordinator and team “the ability to mold the idea to fit their school, their community, and their vision of how to tackle hunger.”

Like the civil rights martyr in whose named she was honored, Roche embraces the idea that “we are our brother’s keeper.”

“The concept of being your brother’s keeper is one that my mother really instilled,” says Roche. Her grandmother, who emigrated from Ireland in 1930, was famous for nourishing not only blood relatives, but a larger “family” that extended deep into the community. “She would make these huge St. Patrick’s Day dinners. And there was never someone who wasn’t always welcome to the dinner table, whether you were a member of the family or not.”


A political science and psychology double major at Rochester, Roche immersed herself in politics, interning in the Rochester office of Congresswoman Louise Slaughter and later, as a participant in the political science department’s Washington Semester Program, in the Washington, D.C., office of then Congressman Charles Schumer. She notes that the Rochester campus and community are well attuned to the issue of hunger and the ethic of community service. “Most of the time students come to us,” she says, describing how the project has expanded across the country. That said, she adds she would relish the chance, if it came, to help establish a kitchen in Rochester.

For now, she’s focused on fundraising, site development and management, and, yes, trying to feed herself as well as she’s helped feed others.

It’s a challenge for driven professionals like Roche.

“It’s been my New Year’s resolution to cook more at home,” she says, noting that the chefs at the D.C. Central Kitchen serve excellent food.

“They always joke with me, ‘You don’t know how to cook.’ I said, ‘I don’t need to know how to cook, that’s why I work at a kitchen.’”

“They gave me a crockpot one year for Christmas because, according to the chefs at the kitchen, everybody can crock. Well, I’m slowly figuring it out.” 

In the News

Doriot Anthony Dwyer



Jeff Tyzik



Charles Strouse



Chuck Mangione



NEW MUSIC HALL OF FAME FEATURES EASTMAN GRADS

The first inductees into the new City of Rochester Music Hall of Fame include several Eastman alumni. Among the nine inductees were flutist **Doriot Anthony Dwyer** '43E, formerly of the Boston Symphony Orchestra and the first woman to win a principal chair in a major American orchestra; arranger, producer, and conductor **Jeff Tyzik** '73E, '77E (MM), now in his 17th season as the principal pops conductor of the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra; **Charles Strouse** '47E, composer of “Those Were the Days,” the theme song of the 1970s sitcom *All in the Family*, as well as the scores for the Broadway musicals *Annie* and *Bye, Bye Birdie*; and smooth jazz artist **Chuck Mangione** '63E, best known for his composition and flugelhorn performance on the 1977 hit “Feels So Good.” The inductees were formally recognized in April at a ceremony at Kodak Hall at Eastman Theatre.

CHEMICAL ENGINEER RECOGNIZED FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ACHIEVEMENT

John Seinfeld '64, the Louis E. Nohl Professor and professor of chemical engineering at the California Institute of Technology, has been named one of two winners of the Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement, among the most coveted awards in environmental science. Seinfeld was cited for his research on the origin, chemical composition, and evolution of particles in the atmosphere. That research led to the development of a mathematical model used by many states to control smog and comply with the Clean Air Act. The John & Alice Tyler Prize, administered at the University of Southern California and consisting of a gold medallion and a cash award, has been presented annually since 1974.

MARINE SCIENTIST HONORED BY VIRGINIA GOVERNOR, SCIENCE MUSEUM

John Milliman '60 has been named one of three Outstanding Scientists of 2012 by Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell and the Science Museum of Virginia in the state capitol of Richmond. The Chancellor Professor of Marine Science at the College of William and Mary’s Virginia Institute of Marine Science, Milliman has focused his most recent research on river discharge—in particular, the impact of human activities on river discharge of water, sediment, and dissolved solids into oceans. This research culminated in his coauthorship of *River Discharge to the Coastal Ocean: A Global Synthesis* (Cambridge University Press) and the world’s largest database of scientific information on rivers, with records on 1,534 rivers around the world.