

## **Poughkeepsie AAUW Woman of the Year 2019**

**Hon. Joan S. Posner**

*Dutchess County Family Court Judge*

*Acting Supreme Court Justice*



Joan S. Posner served as Dutchess County Family Court Judge and as Acting Supreme Court Justice from 2009 until 2018. In addition to her duties as Family Court Judge, she presided over the Dutchess County Integrated Domestic Violence Court.

While on the bench she was the lead judge for Dutchess County for the Child Welfare Court Improvement Project, a federally-funded initiative to improve the outcomes for children in foster care. In that capacity she was instrumental in establishing procedures and protocols for the Court

which directly and positively impacted the lives of children, as well as their caregivers.

During her tenure, she also served on several other statewide and local committees, including the Family Court Advisory and Rules Committee, the Family Court Judges Curriculum Committee, the Advisory Committee on Attorneys for Children and the Family Court Child Care Center Advisory Board.

In 2015, Judge Posner was instrumental in getting legislation passed which added a much-needed fourth Family Court Judge in Dutchess County.

Prior being elected, she worked as the Court Attorney for Family Court Judge Damian Amodeo for 20 years. In that capacity she was involved in many projects, particularly ones to enhance the Court's response in matters involving domestic violence. This included serving on both the Universal Response to Domestic Violence Steering Committee and the Dutchess County Legislature's Citizens' Advisory Committee. She was also the principal author and co-chair of the committee which produced the Dutchess County Domestic Violence Bench

Manual for Town and Village Justices which became a state-wide model.

Her legal career also included working as a staff attorney for Legal Services of the Mid-Hudson Valley and as the managing attorney for Prisoners' Legal Services.

Judge Posner has received numerous awards for her work, including from the Mediation Center of Dutchess County, the Westchester County Bar Association, the Grace Smith House and the Coalition against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

Although now retired, she continues to serve on the Family Court Advisory and Rules Committee, a standing committee of the Chief Judge which writes, reviews and recommends family law legislation to be included in the Court's legislative agenda.

Judge Posner is a graduate of Cornell University and New York University School of Law. She has a son and daughter, both married, four grandsons ranging in ages from six to one year, and a fifth on the way.

