

SETON HALL | LAW

Seton Hall Journal on Legislation & Public Policy Symposium
An Innocence-Centered View of New Jersey's Post-Conviction Jurisprudence
Friday, March 1, 2024



Hon. Edwin H. Stern

Presiding Judge (Ret.)

New Jersey Superior Court, Appellate Division

Panel: 1

Judge Stern holds a B.A. from Rutgers College, Phi Beta Kappa, and a J.D. from Columbia University Law School.

After law school, Judge Stern clerked for the Hon. Edward Gaulkin, Senior Judge of the New Jersey Superior Court, Appellate Division, and after two years of private practice, he joined the Hudson County Prosecutor's Office as chief assistant to Geoffrey Gaulkin, (Judge Edward Gaulkin's son), who was newly appointed to reform the Hudson County Prosecutor's Office after a troubled period in its history. He held this office until 1973, when Geoffrey Gaulkin was appointed to the New Jersey Superior Court bench. Stern then became Acting Hudson County Prosecutor for a year before moving to the New Jersey Administrative Office of the Courts ("AOC") in 1974, where he worked as the Director of Criminal Practice until 1977. He then became a Deputy Attorney General until 1980, when he returned to the AOC and worked as the Assistant Dean for Legal Services.

Judge Stern was appointed to the New Jersey Superior Court in 1981. On September 1, 1985, he was assigned to the Appellate Division. On September 1, 1998, he became the Presiding Judge of Appellate Division Part H. He served as the Appellate Division's Presiding Judge for Administration from 2004 until his retirement in 2011.

Chief Justice Stuart Rabner named Stern to the Supreme Court by designation in September 2010 to fill in until the political branches could agree on a new Justice to succeed Justice John E. Wallace. Judge Stern was an acting Justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court from September 2010 until reaching mandatory retirement in June 2011.

Judge Stern has always done stalwart service on various New Jersey Supreme Court Committees for more than 40 years. Most importantly for this symposium, Judge Stern was the Chair of the Criminal Practice Committee in in 2008-2009 when the rules that are the subject of the "Suspension of State Habeas Corpus" discussion were promulgated. Judge Stern now serves as a member of the New Jersey Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Judicial Conduct, and as the Chief Justice's designee on the New Jersey Sentencing and Criminal Disposition Commission. He is also an active elected member of the American Law Institute; a member of the American Bar Association; and a fellow of the American Bar Foundation, and he has been a member of the Editorial Board of the New Jersey Law Journal since the 1990s.

Judge Stern is currently s special counsel at the law firm Pashman Stein Walder Hayden, where he practices in the Alternative Dispute Resolution and Appellate Advocacy practices.