

2012 FMJA Founder's Award Recipient

James C. Duff

The highest award the Federal Magistrate Judges Association conveys is its Founder's Award. This award is not given out each year, but rather is reserved for extraordinary activities and individuals who have displayed exceptional support, loyalty and dedication to the FMJA. This years recipient is a true example of these qualities.

Presently the President and CEO of the Freedom Forum and Newseum in Washington, DC., he is a magna cum laude graduate of the University of Kentucky Honors program with a degree in political science and philosophy, where he was Phi Beta Kappa. In addition to excelling in academics, he was an elite athlete who "walked on" and played on one of the countries most storied basketball programs. After studying in Scotland, he worked for four years in the Supreme Court of the United States for then Chief Justice Warren E. Burger. During this time he attended Georgetown Law School, graduating in 1981 and joining the law firm of Clifford and Warnke where he later became a partner. Following a merger of firms, he became a member of the law firm of Howrey and Simon.

From 1996 until 2000, he worked for his second Chief Justice, William Rehnquist, in a position that is now known as the "Counselor to the Chief Justice" and as the Executive Director of the Judicial Fellows Commission. As the equivalent of the Chief Justice's Chief of Staff, he assisted in the administration of the Judicial Conference of the United States and the Federal

Judicial Center. Additionally, he assisted the Chief Justice, who presided over the historic 1999 Senate Presidential Impeachment Trial. From 2000 to 2006, he served as Managing Partner in the DC office of Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz where he represented the interests of the Federal Judges Association before Congress, as well as some of the interests of the Freedom Forum, the University of Kentucky and the NCAA. He has taught Constitutional Law at Georgetown University, as an adjunct professor, for more than ten years.

Our recipient was a pall bearer at Chief justice Rehnquist's funeral, authored a tribute to the Chief Justice in the Harvard Law Review and spoke at the unveiling of Chief Justice Rehnquist's bust in the Great Hall of the Supreme Court.

Although these accomplishments, in and of themselves, would be worthy of many awards, it was the next step in his career that made him so beloved by the 560+ United States Magistrate Judges around our nation. In July of 2006, Jim Duff was appointed by Chief Justice John Roberts, the third Chief Justice he has been associated with, to serve as the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts. It was in this capacity that Jim Duff changed the face of the AO with respect to all judges.

From the beginning of his tenure, Jim Duff viewed all judges, Article III, Magistrate Judges and Bankruptcy Judges as equal participants in the activities of the Administrative Office and the U.S. Courts. For the first time, we became full partners, respected in each division of the AO. Jim Duff had

the vision to see the unique benefits each of the three judges associations could bring to the table in many combined efforts. His foresight and commitment fostered the incredibly close relationship the FMJA has today with both the FJA and the NCBJ, something we could not have dreamed possible just a few years ago.

Jim Duff has been a confidant extra ordinaire and a visionary in the coordination of judicial efforts to better the entire U.S. Court system. He is a man of honor and integrity. A leader by example. But most importantly to the FMJA, and all of its members around the United States, he always has been and always will be our friend....one of us.....and that is why we proudly honor him today with the Federal Magistrate Judges Association's highest award, the 2012 Founder's Award. Congratulations Jim and thank you on behalf of every member of the FMJA.

Respectfully submitted by Mal Mannion 2011-2012 FMJA President.