

RESOLUTION

**SENIOR STATUS
of
THE HONORABLE LAURIE SMITH CAMP
United States District Judge
District of Nebraska**



Presented by:
The Honorable Joseph F. Bataillon
United States District Judge
District of Nebraska

We, the bench and bar of the Eighth Circuit, gathered at the 2019 Judicial Conference, observe that our friend and colleague, the Honorable Laurie Smith Camp announced taking senior status effective December 1, 2018. This occasion permits us to recognize the outstanding contributions Judge Smith Camp has made to our profession and to the people she serves. It is with great honor and pride that we propose this resolution paying tribute to our colleague and friend.

President George W. Bush nominated Judge Smith Camp to the District bench on September 4, 2001. She is the first woman to serve as an Article III judge for the District of Nebraska. She is the daughter of a distinguished Nebraska lawyer, Edson Smith. In the 1930s Mr. Smith was an Assistant United States Attorney who vigorously prosecuted government corruption in Omaha, Nebraska and later was a founding member of one of Omaha's premier law firms.

Judge Smith Camp graduated with distinction from Stanford University in 1974 and received her J.D. in 1977 from University of Nebraska College of Law, where she served as Editor-in-Chief of the *Nebraska Law Review*. She engaged in private practice in Nebraska and Kansas from 1977-80; served as General Counsel to Nebraska's Department of Corrections from 1980-91; headed the Nebraska Attorney General's Civil Rights Section from 1991-95; and was Chief Deputy Attorney General for Criminal Matters from 1995-2001.

From 1982-2001, Judge Smith Camp, with three partners, initiated and sustained the development of Lincoln's historic Haymarket, revitalizing the blighted warehouse district. Judge Smith Camp's notable decisions include striking down a law requiring mental health screenings for women seeking abortions, voiding portions of a city ordinance prohibiting providing housing to illegal aliens, and holding that major employers were required to provide insurance coverage for all FDA-approved prescriptions for contraception.

Judge Smith Camp is a noted TEDx personality and frequent presenter at law school and civic functions. She represents the Court and the District with impeccable professionalism.

Judge Smith Camp has received many awards and recognitions, including: Nebraska State Manager of the Year, 1994; Nebraska Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee Top Award, 2001; Warren K. Urbom Mentor Award, Robert Van Pelt American Inn of Court, 2004; Outstanding Contributor to Women in Law Award, NSBA Women and the Law Section, 2005; University of Nebraska - Lincoln, College of Law, Distinguished Alumni Award, 2006.

Judge Smith Camp's intelligence and calm demeanor have enabled the District of Nebraska to remain one of the most innovative, respected and efficient courts in the country. She meticulously prepares for each matter and recognizes the impact that her decisions have on the people she serves. Judge Smith Camp is the epitome of class who consistently displays dignity, refinement, civility, and wry good humor.

Judge Smith Camp is a dedicated judge with a tremendous knowledge and passion for the law. The bench and bar of the District of Nebraska are fortunate that despite taking senior status, Judge Smith Camp continues to maintain a full caseload and to offer her many talents to the Court and other organizations. She also is chairing the 2020 Eighth Circuit Judicial Conference in Omaha, for which she persuaded Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg to appear. We, her colleagues, are grateful for her service and know that Judge Smith Camp's career will continue to be one of great distinction.