



Kathryn N. Nester

Kathy earned both her undergraduate and J.D. degrees from the University of Texas. Before her appointment to her current position of Federal Public Defender for the District of Utah in August of 2011, Kathy held the position of Assistant Federal Public Defender for the Southern District of Mississippi for six years. Prior to that, Kathy was a trial lawyer in private practice in the Jackson, Mississippi area for thirteen years and represented plaintiffs in personal injury and civil rights cases and federal and state criminal defendants. She has handled over fifty jury trials including capital murder, complex fraud and wrongful death cases and was awarded Mississippi Trial Lawyer of the Year in 2001. She has appeared numerous times before the Fifth and Tenth Circuit Courts of Appeals for panel and *en banc* arguments and, in 2014, she appeared before the United States Supreme Court as co-counsel in *USA v. Kevin Loughrin*. As Federal Public Defender for the District of Utah, Kathy supervises over 40 employees while continuing to handle complex cases and serving on multiple court committees. Kathy is a frequent speaker at local and national training seminars and has appeared in national and international media in several of her high profile cases. In 2010 she was inducted as a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. In 2013, Kathy was recognized as one of the Top Lawyers in Utah. In 2015, she was inducted as a fellow of the International Society of Barristers. Kathy currently serves as representative for the Federal Public Defenders on the U.S. Deputy Attorney General's Reentry Roundtable Committee and she served for two years on the national Clemency Project 2014 Steering Committee. Kathy and her husband Steven have been married for 27 years and they have two daughters, Katie (21) and Caroline (19).