

Honorable Judge Andrea L. Harnett
Magistrate Judge
Superior Court of the District of Columbia

Andrea Harnett was installed as a Magistrate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia in January 1985 by the Honorable H. Carl Moultrie I.

Judge Harnett graduated from Northwestern University and from Columbia Law School, after being named a Harlan Fiske Scholar. As a very active law student, she participated in the Greenhaven Prison Legal Assistance Project, held a New York City Court clerkship with the Honorable Mary Johnson Lowe, and served as a student intern in the Official Corruption Unit of the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York.

Following law school, Judge Harnett began work as an Assistant United States Attorney, serving in this capacity until her appointment to the Superior Court. She rose to positions of increasing responsibility, including rotations through Superior Court Misdemeanor Trials, Grand Jury, Felony Trials, and Career Criminal Units, as well as the Appellate Division, and the United State District Court Criminal Trials and Special Proceedings Units, and finally as the first Chief of the Victim/Witness Assistance Unit. As the Chief of this unit, she had the unique opportunity of acting as a liaison between community groups and the prosecutor's office.

As the representative of the United States Attorney, Judge Harnett also served on many Superior Court committees, including the Mental Health Rules committee, the Ugast Committee on Forensics Procedures, the Prisoner Movement Committee, the Victims of Violent Crime Compensation Act of 1981 Committee, and the Emergency Interpreter Program Committee.

While serving as a Magistrate Judge, Judge Harnett has worked in the Criminal, Family, and Civil Divisions, and the Domestic Violence Unit, of the Superior Court. She was one of the founders of the unique and innovative Domestic Violence Unit and developed an expertise in the civil and criminal responses to domestic violence. In 2004, she helped to organize the court's Domestic Violence Arraignment Court. She has spoken to many groups and attended many conferences in this field, as a student and as a faculty member.

As a Magistrate Judge, she participates in many court committees, including the Criminal Rules Committee, the Security Committee, and the city-wide Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Pre-Trial Systems Subcommittee. For years she was an active member of the Domestic Violence Implementation Committee.

Judge Harnett has participated in programs at the Gallaudet College Criminal Justice Clinic, American University College of Law, and the Georgetown University Street Law Project. She has spoken at local schools and at community meetings about crime, domestic violence and the court system.

Judge Harnett is married to Benjamin Fisherow, an attorney and manager at the U.S. Department of Justice, Environmental Enforcement Section. They have two sons – Simon, a law student, and Michael, a geographer.