2015 Child Advocate of the Year Award Recipient:
Hon. Eleanor Bush

The Children’s Rights Child Advocate of the Year committee is pleased to announce this year’s recipient, Eleanor Bush, Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County.

While Judge Bush has only been serving on the bench since 2014, her work history with child welfare is extensive and dates back to the 1990s. Judge Bush worked with the Administrative Office of the Pennsylvania Courts as a trainer for newly implemented child welfare training and a member of both the visitation and legal representation work groups. She also worked at the Dauphin County Office of Children and Youth, the Juvenile Law Center, and trained audiences through the University of Pittsburgh Child Welfare Training Program.

Judge Bush served on the Children’s Rights Committee since 2000, in various capacities, including as a member, as chair of the legislative action subcommittee, and as chair of the committee itself. She was a member of the Advisory Committee on Services to Children and Youth with the Pennsylvania Joint State Government Commission and a member of the National Advisory Committee for the Children in Managed Care Initiative. She previously received awards for her child advocacy, such as SmithKline Beecham Community Health IMPACT award in 1999 and Pennsylvania Bar Association’s President’s Award for dedication and leadership as Chair of the Law Reform Subcommittee of the Pennsylvania Bar Association Task Force on the Interbranch Commission on Juvenile Justice Report in 2011.


Judge Bush is regarded as one of the foremost Pennsylvania experts in juvenile law, having trained attorneys and child welfare professionals about dependency, adoption and termination cases for the past 20 years across Pennsylvania. Her nomination was supported as a result of her excellent individual and systemic advocacy for children. She is described as being an individual with “expert knowledge of the law, combined with a calm and fair demeanor and sharp intellect,” who has devoted her entire career to legal issues affecting children. As a judge, she has the opportunity to use her unique combination of advocacy and training work, and her significant legal expertise, to make decisions which will give children and families the chance for a better future.

The Children’s Rights Committee is pleased to announce this year’s recipient of the Child Advocate of the Year Award, Eleanor Bush!