

In 1977, the Honorable Diane K. Vescovo graduated with highest honors from the University of Virginia. She continued her education by attending what is now The University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law, receiving her juris doctor in 1980. While in law school, Judge Vescovo served as Editor-in-Chief of *The University of Memphis Law Review*. Upon graduation, Judge Vescovo remained in Memphis, serving as a judicial law clerk to the Honorable Harry W. Welford, then U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Tennessee. For the next six years, Judge Vescovo worked with her father, Lloyd C. Kirkland, Jr. Beginning in 1987, Judge Vescovo left private practice and served as in-house litigation counsel for International Paper Company for six years. Judge Vescovo then returned to private practice, becoming a partner at Wolff, Ardis, P.C.

On June 15, 1995, Judge Vescovo was appointed to the bench as a federal magistrate judge for the Western District of Tennessee, making her the first female federal magistrate judge in the district. Since her appointment, Judge Vescovo has served three consecutive eight-year terms as a federal magistrate judge and was named Chief Magistrate Judge in November 2014.

Judge Vescovo has a long history of participating in various professional associations and engaging in community activities. She is a member of the Federal Magistrate Judges Association and served on its Board of Directors for several years as the Sixth Circuit representative, she is a master member of the Leo Bearman, Sr. American Inn of Court, and she has served twice as the chair of the Memphis Bar Association Bench Bar Conference. Judge Vescovo also served on the Memphis Bar Association's Committee on Minorities in the Profession and has been a member of the Association of Women Attorneys since her law school graduation in 1980. She has served as a Memphis Area Legal Services Campaign for Equal Justice Cabinet Member as well as on the Lawyers Committee for the National Civil Rights Museum and on the Youth Villages Board of Directors. This year, she is serving as the Co-Chair of the Memphis Area Legal Services Campaign for Equal Justice. Additionally, Judge Vescovo has contributed to the Memphis legal community by giving numerous presentations in the fields of e-discovery, technological advancements, ethics, and mediation. Additionally, Judge Vescovo considers her mediation skills and success in settlement conferences as another achievement in her career.

Judge Vescovo is also a proud University of Memphis alumna. She has served on The University of Memphis Alumni Association Executive Board of Directors, The University of Memphis School of Law Alumni Board as president, and The University of Memphis School of Law Advisory Board. Judge Vescovo aided in re-locating the law school downtown. One of her proudest moments was serving as Co-Chair of the Grand Opening Gala for the new law school building. Judge Vescovo was also instrumental in implementing the Law Alumni Association's Pillars of Excellence Awards Dinner, which recognizes attorneys who have given significant service to the legal profession and community. She has been selected to receive the Pillars award in 2021.

During her tenure as a federal magistrate judge, Judge Vescovo has dedicated her efforts to hiring newly graduated law students from The University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law, ushering in further generations of legal professionals in the Memphis community.

Throughout her career, Judge Vescovo has received several awards including the Young Lawyer's Division Outstanding Judge of the Year Award in 2010, the University of Memphis Distinguished Alumni Award in 2015, and most recently, the Association of Women Attorney's Marion Griffin Frances Loring Award which honors those who have made outstanding contributions to women in the legal profession.

After retiring from twenty-five years on the bench, Judge Vescovo plans to enjoy time with her loving family, get a puppy, and travel with her husband, Mike McLaren.