



UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS  
SEVENTH CIRCUIT

CHAMBERS OF  
ILANA DIAMOND ROVNER  
CIRCUIT JUDGE

January 12, 2024

219 SOUTH DEARBORN, CHAMBERS 2774  
CHICAGO IL, 60604  
(312) 435-5608

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden:

In this, my 40th year as a federal judge, I write to inform you that, having attained the age and service requirements in 28 U.S.C. § 371(b)(1), I intend to leave active service and assume senior status upon the confirmation and appointment of my successor. It is my intention to render substantial judicial service to the United States as a senior judge.

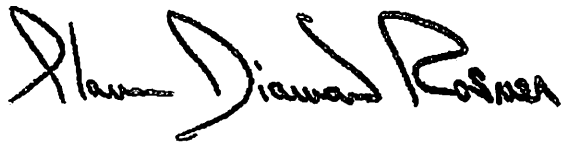
My mother and I came to the United States from Latvia in late 1939 to join my father, who had left a year earlier, as refugees from the Nazis, escaping the unspeakable fate that our family and friends met in Europe. This great nation took us from certain death and gave us every possible opportunity to make a new life for ourselves. Our experience gave me a deep respect for the rule of law and a personal understanding of the horrors that can ensue when it is abandoned. I was never more proud than on the days that I was sworn in as an American citizen and, years later, with my parents of blessed memory looking on, as a United States District Court Judge and then a United States Circuit Court Judge. Every day of my judicial service I have marveled at the incredible honor that has been bestowed upon me.

Although I can never repay the debt I owe this country, I hope that my life in public service bespeaks my unending gratitude for everything it has given my family. It has been my great honor to serve the State of Illinois and my country as a law clerk to the late Judge James Benton Parsons, an Assistant United States Attorney, Deputy Governor, a United States District Judge, and a United States Circuit Judge. I am particularly humbled to have served with some of the finest judges in the country on those courts — colleagues I have grown to love as family. In the service of justice, I have endeavored always to be mindful of the ways in which the legal system can overlook, exclude, and give unequal treatment to those without resources, status, or societal acceptance.

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
January 12, 2024

When I joined the Seventh Circuit in 1992, I was the first woman to serve on the court since its creation in 1891. Today, I am delighted to say, I am one of five women in active service on our court (one of six in total). I know that, in choosing my successor, you will consider candidates whose life experiences, professional background, and worldview equip them to think critically, to give respectful hearing to points of view that may be unpopular or go unheard, and to pursue justice with an open heart and mind.

With my best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ilana Diamond Rovner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ilana Diamond Rovner  
U.S. Circuit Judge

cc: The Honorable John Roberts, Jr., Chief Justice of the United States  
cc by email:

The Honorable Diane S. Sykes, Chief Circuit Judge, Seventh Circuit  
The Honorable Rebecca R. Pallmeyer, Chief District Judge,  
Northern District of Illinois

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin, U.S. Senate

The Honorable Tammy Duckworth, U.S. Senate

The Honorable Roslynn R. Mauskopf, Director, Administrative Office  
of the U.S. Courts

The Honorable John S. Cooke, Director, Federal Judicial Center

Sarah O. Schrup, Circuit Executive, Seventh Circuit

Christopher G. Conway, Clerk, Seventh Circuit

Joseph T. Phillips, Chief, Judicial Services Office

Carol S. Sefren, Chief, Judges Compensation and Retirement Division