

Biography for Judge Karen Caldwell

Karen Caldwell is a United States District Judge in the Eastern District of Kentucky. Before taking the federal bench in 2001, she was a partner in the law firm of Dinsmore & Shohl, LLP. She had previously served as United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Kentucky.

In her professional capacity, Judge Caldwell has served on the Character and Fitness Committee of the Kentucky Board of Bar Examiners and chaired the state bar association's annual convention. Judge Caldwell serves on the United States Courts' Budget Committee and in 2019, Chief Justice John Roberts appointed her as chair of the United States Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation, which is a special judicial panel established by Congress in 1968 to determine whether civil actions pending in multiple districts should be consolidated for pretrial proceedings.

Judge Caldwell has received many civic and professional honors including an honorary degree from Transylvania and the Morrison Medallion from its Alumni Association. She is the recipient of the Kentucky Bar Association's Outstanding Lawyer Award and The Kentucky Counsel on Post-secondary Education's Outstanding Alumnus award and has been inducted into the University of Kentucky College of Law Hall of Fame.