

I would like to nominate Lucinda Cronin Masterton for consideration for this year's Henry T. Duncan Award. Prior to election to the bench in 2006, Judge Masterton practiced as a bankruptcy trustee and founded the Mediation Center of Kentucky - a nonprofit mediation center which remains in high demand today. She served as Family Court Judge in the 5th division of Fayette Circuit Court from the time of her election until she retired from the bench in 2023. She remained unchallenged during her tenure on the bench - and seemed consistently surprised that no one was ever tempted to file to run against her. Those of us fortunate enough to practice in her court knew that her intelligence and integrity made a challenge more than unlikely.

Any member of the family law bar in Fayette and surrounding counties will tell you that Judge Masterton was a stellar jurist. Her concern and compassion for children were evident in all of her interactions, and CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates - a volunteer service for children in the system who are at risk) gave her the honor of Judge of the Year in 2021. Her work for the National CASA Leadership Council and in training and education for judges in the Commonwealth has helped raise awareness of some of the most pressing issues facing children and their families. Judge Masterton participated in swearing in new CASA volunteers and remained a concerned advocate for this vital community service.

Judge Masterton's service to the profession did not end with her retirement. While I don't know EXACTLY how this came about, I do know that as Editor of the Bench & Bar we had been publicizing issues stemming from "legal desserts" across the state - areas where there were insufficient attorneys and resources available for our system to function well. One such area involved the lack of mediation services for family law matters in many jurisdictions. For quite some time following her retirement, Judge Masterton traveled the state training family law judges' staff attorneys to fill that need. The training was a revolving door, as the staff attorneys generally left after a term for practice, but it provided a no-cost way for participants in the system to seek a non-litigation solution to their issues, and helped the sitting judge address an often-daunting caseload.

She has also continued to offer her services in connection with her original passion for mediation, and does private mediations in many jurisdictions.

I have marveled at the endless energy and creativity that this individual brings to every endeavor. She is unfailingly kind, wonderfully creative in her approach to solutions to problems which often appear baffling, and remains a stellar example of unselfish service to the profession and the community.

Eileen M. O'Brien



300 E. Main Street, Ste. 330

Lexington, KY 40507

(859)551-4006

eileen@osbornelaw.com

FELLOW OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF MATRIMONIAL LAWYERS

