

March 31, 2015

Women quietly do extraordinary things every day. To help shed light on the resilience and strength of Hoosier women and celebrate their accomplishments and contributions to history we are releasing an article every day in the month of March. These articles showcase how women have moved Indiana and our country forward and who inspire others to do great things in their own lives.

Women in Indiana have an important role to play. You can make a difference by:

- Learning more about the issues affecting women in Indiana.
- Voicing your opinion on issues important to you
- Serving as an advocate for women
- Mentoring another woman
- Join ICW's mailing list or social media outlets to be notified of upcoming events, programs and resources available to women

Go to [www.in.gov/icw](http://www.in.gov/icw) to learn more about the Indiana Commission for Women and their current initiatives.

#### Learn more:

- **Indiana Supreme Court**  
(<http://www.in.gov/judiciary/supreme>)  
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- **Chief Justice Loretta Rush Bio and Swearing-in Ceremony**  
(<http://www.in.gov/judiciary/citc/3582.htm>)

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## Women's History Month 2015

*Telling 31 stories in 31 days this March.*

### Chief Justice Loretta Rush

Loretta H. Rush was appointed to the Indiana Supreme Court by Governor Mitch Daniels in September 2012. She took the oath of office as Indiana's 108th Supreme Court Justice on November 7, 2012. As only the second woman to serve on the Indiana Supreme Court, she made history on August 18, 2014, when she became the first female Chief Justice. Prior to her appointment, she was elected Tippecanoe Superior Court 3 judge and served for 14 years.

As a Supreme Court Justice, Rush serves on the Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana and the Indiana Conference for Legal Education Opportunity. She serves as liaison to the Division of Supreme Court Administration, the Division of State Court Administration, the Indiana Judicial Center, and the Indiana Judges Association. As Chief Justice, Rush chairs the Judicial Nominating/Qualifications Commission. She has represented Indiana multiple times at the National Judicial Leadership Summit on the Protection of Children.

As juvenile court judge in Tippecanoe County she assisted with the creation of the county's Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program. She also implemented a certified juvenile drug treatment court and initiated a twenty-four-hour assessment center for youth. During her tenure, she helped initiate, develop and sustain more than twenty-five youth programs. Prior to that she spent 15 years in general legal practice and eventually became a partner at a Lafayette firm.

Rush was born in 1958 in Pennsylvania and moved frequently as a child before settling in Indiana in 1972. She earned her undergraduate degree from Purdue University and graduated *cum laude* from the Indiana University Maurer School of Law in Bloomington. She now serves as a member of the law school's Board of Visitors.

Chief Justice Rush is a member of the Tippecanoe, Indiana, Indianapolis, Seventh Circuit and American Bar Associations; and Indiana and National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. Chief Justice Rush was selected as one of Indianapolis Business Journal's 2013 "Women of Influence." In 2003, she was honored to receive the Kinsey Award for Juvenile Judge of the Year and was presented with the Fiscal Responsibility Award by the Tippecanoe County Council and Commissioners in 2001.