Chief Judge Margaret Bartley was nominated by President Barack Obama and subsequently appointed a judge of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (USCAVC) in June 2012. She became Chief Judge on December 4, 2019. For over 17 years prior to her appointment, Chief Judge Bartley served as a veterans advocate, working as staff attorney and then senior staff attorney for National Veterans Legal Services Program (NVLSP), a veterans service organization. From 2005 until her appointment to the bench, Chief Judge Bartley also served as Director of Outreach and Education for the Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program. Chief Judge Bartley earned a Bachelor of Arts degree, cum laude, from Pennsylvania State University in 1981 and a juris doctor degree, cum laude, from the American University Washington College of Law in 1993.