



United States Attorney's Office
Western District of Pennsylvania

Mary Beth Buchanan

United States Attorney



Mary Beth Buchanan is the United States Attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania. She was appointed by President George W. Bush on September 5, 2001, and confirmed by the United States Senate on September 14, 2001. Ms. Buchanan is the first woman in Pennsylvania's history to be Presidentially appointed to this position. As United States Attorney, Ms. Buchanan oversees the prosecution of all federal crimes, and the litigation of civil matters in which the federal government has an interest, throughout the twenty-five counties in Western Pennsylvania.

At the request of the Attorney General, Ms. Buchanan also served from June 2004 until June 2005 as the Director of the Executive Office for United States Attorneys. This Washington D.C.-based office provides administrative support to the 94 United States Attorneys' Offices nationwide.

Between April 2003 and May 2004, Ms. Buchanan served as chair of Attorney General John Ashcroft's Advisory Committee of United States Attorneys. This Committee counsels the Attorney General on law enforcement issues and plays an integral role in setting Department of Justice policy. She also serves on several subcommittees of Attorney General Ashcroft's Advisory Committee, including the Terrorism/National Security Subcommittee; the Violent Crime/Organized Crime Subcommittee; the White Collar Crime Subcommittee; the Civil Rights Subcommittee; and the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Working Group. From February 2002 to 2004, she served on an Advisory Committee to the United States Sentencing Commission, which was established to study the effectiveness of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines for organizations.

Prior to her appointment as United States Attorney, Ms. Buchanan was an Assistant United States Attorney in the Western District of Pennsylvania. From 1988 to 1992 she served in the Civil Division of the United States Attorney's Office, representing the United States in civil litigation matters. From 1992-2001, Ms. Buchanan served in the Criminal Division, representing the United States in the prosecution of both financial and violent crimes. While an Assistant United States Attorney, Ms. Buchanan was the supervising attorney for the Financial Crimes Task Force of Southwestern Pennsylvania, acted as the District's Violence Against Women Act Coordinator, and was instrumental in the formation of the Western Pennsylvania Crimes Against Children Task Force. From its inception until her appointment as United States Attorney, Ms. Buchanan served as the Chairperson of the Crimes Against Children Task Force and the district's Child Exploitation Coordinator.

Throughout her career, Ms. Buchanan has served in leadership roles in many professional, charitable, and civic associations. She has served as the Chair of the Judiciary Committee of the Allegheny

County Bar Association; President of the University of Pittsburgh Chapter of the American Inns of Court, President of the Women's Bar Association of Western Pennsylvania, Chair of the Criminal Practice Committee of the Federal Court Section of the Allegheny County Bar Association, President of the Board of Directors of the American Heart Association, Vice-President of the Parental Stress Center, and Secretary of the Foundation for California University of Pennsylvania. Ms. Buchanan is also a member of the Pennsylvania Commission on Women in the Profession, and the Western Pennsylvania Chapter of the International Women's Forum.

She is a 1984 graduate of California University of Pennsylvania, and a 1987 graduate of the University of Pittsburgh School of Law. In March 1999, Ms. Buchanan received California University of Pennsylvania's Alumni Professional Achievement Award. In February 2002, Ms. Buchanan received the Women's Bar Association's Susan B. Anthony Award, which recognizes the achievements of women in the legal profession. In February 2003, she received the Vectors Pittsburgh Person of the Year Award in Law and Government. In September 2004, Ms. Buchanan received the 2004 ATHENA Award, from the Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce, for her professional excellence, dedication to community service, and generosity in assisting other women achieve professional success.