

# Tradition of Excellence Award Recipient



**The Honorable John Gleeson** was a federal district judge in Brooklyn for 22 years before joining Debevoise & Plimpton in 2016 as a litigation partner in the White Collar & Regulatory Defense and Commercial Litigation Groups. He is an active lawyer in federal and state trial and appellate courts in both practice areas, and has also conducted investigations,

advised boards of directors, served as an expert witness, and acted as a mediator and arbitrator in various disputes. Judge Gleeson is Co-Chair of the firm's Pro Bono Committee.

Before his appointment to the bench in 1994, Judge Gleeson was a federal prosecutor in the same courthouse for 10 years. He served as Chief of the Criminal Division, Chief of Appeals, Chief of Special Prosecutions, and Chief of Organized Crime. Judge Gleeson received the Attorney General's Distinguished Service Award for his role as lead prosecutor in *United States v. John Gotti*. His decade-long efforts to dismantle the mafia are set forth in his book, *The Gotti Wars: Taking Down America's Most Notorious Mobster* (2022).

Judge Gleeson has taught law for more than 35 years. He currently teaches Sentencing at New York University School of Law and has taught Complex Federal Investigations at New York University and at Harvard Law School, as well as Sentencing at Yale Law School. He is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and a member of the American Law Institute. He is also on the Board of Directors of the Federal Defenders of New York and Getting Out Staying Out. From August 2022 until January 2025, Judge Gleeson was a Commissioner on the United States Sentencing Commission.

Judge Gleeson's numerous other publications include *Federal Criminal Practice: A Second Circuit Handbook*. In her Foreword to the Tenth Edition, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg described the treatise as "a gift for judges in the Second Circuit," a "labor of love" that she was pleased is "available to all who compose the bar and bench of 'my' circuit."

Judge Gleeson earned his law degree from the University of Virginia School of Law and went to college at Georgetown University.