

Press Release

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The Honorable Raymond M. Kethledge assumed the position of Chief Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit on Thursday, October 1, 2026. He succeeded Judge Jeffrey S. Sutton, who has served in the role since 2021. Chief Judge Kethledge's chambers are in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and he is the nineteenth judge of the court to serve in this capacity.

The chief circuit judge is the administrative head of the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals and Chair of the Sixth Circuit Judicial Council. The chief judge's responsibilities include ensuring that the Court of Appeals runs effectively and efficiently, and that the courts within the circuit remain in compliance with federal statutes, circuit policies, and administrative regulations.

Chief Judge Kethledge was appointed to the Sixth Circuit by President George W. Bush in June 2008. He received his B.A. in history from the University of Michigan in 1989 and his J.D. from Michigan Law School in 1993. He clerked for Judge Ralph B. Guy Jr. of the Sixth Circuit and for Justice Anthony Kennedy of the Supreme Court of the United States. Chief Judge Kethledge also worked in the U.S. Senate and later, with two partners, founded a boutique litigation firm, now known as Bush Seyferth & Paige PLLC, in Troy, Michigan. His practice there included a broad mix of trial-court, appellate, and class-action litigation.

Chief Judge Kethledge served on the Judicial Conference of the United States Advisory Committee on Criminal Rules for nine years and chaired that committee from 2019–22. He has also taught for many years as a lecturer at Michigan Law School and at Harvard Law School. He is the co-author (with Lt. Col. Michael S. Erwin) of a book on leadership, entitled *Lead Yourself First: Inspiring Leadership Through Solitude*. He has also written another book, *Freedom and the Rule of Law: From Magna Charta to the Present*, which will be published in September 2027.

The United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit maintains appellate jurisdiction over nine district courts in the states of Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, and Tennessee. The court is authorized a complement of sixteen active judges and is headquartered at the Potter Stewart United States Courthouse, located in Cincinnati, Ohio.