



BIOGRAPHY: SARA WALTER COMBS

Judge Combs is currently serving her 15th year on the Kentucky Court of Appeals for the First Division of the 7th Judicial District.

Born in Louisville, Kentucky, Judge Combs resides in Powell County at her farm, Fern Hill, where she and her late husband, the well-known and beloved former Governor Bert T. Combs, made their home. An Eastern Kentuckian by choice, "Sara," as she is most commonly called, shares the beauty and serenity of her log home in the mountains with numerous visitors who enjoy the hospitality equated with Fern Hill.

Her background is filled with academic excellence: valedictorian at both Sacred Heart Academy in Louisville and the University of Louisville where she obtained a B.A. in French, she was recipient of a Woodrow Wilson Fellowship and achieved the rank of second in her class at U of L Law School. Both the College of Arts and Sciences and the Law School of the University of Louisville honored Judge Combs by naming her among their Distinguished Alumni.

Judge Combs's professional experience includes teaching at both the high school and university levels as well as the practice of law. Her range of experience in the legal profession is quite broad. Initially practicing as an associate with a sizable law firm in Louisville, she then served as corporate counsel to an advertising company, practiced closely with her late husband, and became the sole proprietor of her own small law office in Stanton. She has brought a diverse range of training and experience to the bench.

She has also made history in a series of firsts. Sara was the Commonwealth's first woman to serve on the Supreme Court. She was elected the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals in May of 2004, was the first woman to serve as Chief of an appellate court in Kentucky, and was the first Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals from the mountains of Eastern Kentucky.

Judge Combs is affiliated with numerous professional organizations and institutions of higher learning. She has been active for many years as a volunteer speaker for countless professional, civic, and youth organizations.