

HON. JONATHAN W. FELDMAN
Class of 1981

As described by his nominator, Jonathan Feldman is deeply committed to the fair administration of justice and, in particular, to advancing the excellence of our federal judicial system through education. His record of achievement in the years since he graduated from the College of Law confirms those qualities.

After receiving his bachelor's degree from Cornell University, Judge Feldman moved a bit north to attend the College of Law, graduating *summa cum laude* in 1981 as a member of the Order of the Coif. He was managing editor of the *Syracuse Law Review*, a board member of the Moot Court Honor Society, and a member of the National Moot Court Trial Team. As a student, he received the International Academy of Trial Lawyers Award for Excellence in Trial Advocacy.

After a short run in private practice in Rochester, he served as a law clerk for Judge Michael Telesca of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of New York. Then came a four-year stint as Assistant United States Attorney for the Western District before his return to the private sector, when he co-founded the firm of Geraci & Feldman in 1987. The call of public service lured Judge Feldman back in 1992, when he was appointed as the first Federal Public Defender for the Western District of New York. In 1995, he was appointed United States Magistrate Judge for the Western District, where his current term runs until 2019.

This list of accomplishments tells only part of Judge Feldman's story, for he has especially distinguished himself in our profession as a highly-regarded teacher of federal judges, and more recently, law students. In 2000, U.S. Chief Justice William Rehnquist appointed him to the Magistrate Judge Education Committee of the Federal Judicial Center, the education and research center of the United States federal courts, where new federal judges are trained and veteran federal judges refresh and update their knowledge. Feldman became chair of that Committee in 2005. For more than a decade, he was the Federal Judicial Center's primary instructor for new magistrate judges on the subjects of federal criminal practice and procedure. In 2009, Chief Justice John Roberts appointed him to the Judicial Conference Committee on Defender Services. In 2012, Chief Justice Roberts appointed him as the Magistrate Judge member of the governing board of the Federal Judicial Center. Judge Feldman expanded his teaching experience in 2013, joining Cornell Law School as an adjunct where he teaches a course in **federal criminal practice**.

Judge Feldman is known by magistrate judges across the country to be an engaging and caring instructor, many of whom fondly recount his training them as "baby judges." His dedication to justice and training is felt by those he teaches and works with and is highly regarded within the legal profession.

*In recognition of his distinguished career and commitment to judicial administration and education,
Syracuse University College of Law is proud to honor
Judge Jonathan W. Feldman with the Syracuse Law Honors Medal.*