



225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
1789-2014



## Denise Cote

**Born:**

1946  
St. Cloud, MN

**Received Commission:**

August 10, 1994

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Judge Cote was appointed United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York on August 11, 1994 and entered on duty August 12, 1994. She received a B.A. degree from St. Mary's College in South Bend, Indiana in 1968, an M.A. degree from Columbia University Graduate Faculties in History in 1969, an honorary doctorate from St. Mary's in 2006, and a J.D. from Columbia Law School in 1975. She was a Notes & Comments Editor of the Columbia Law Review.

Following graduation from Columbia Law School, Judge Cote was a law clerk to the Honorable Jack B. Weinstein, United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York, from 1975 to 1976. In April 1977, she joined the Criminal Division of the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York as an Assistant United States Attorney. In 1983, she became a Deputy Chief of the Office's Criminal Division, a post she held until she left the Office in 1985. In 1985, she joined Kaye, Scholer, Fierman, Hays & Handler as an associate. She became a partner at the firm in 1988. In 1991, she left the firm to return to the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York as the first woman to serve as its Chief of the Criminal Division, a post she held until 1994.

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