

David J. Hickton

The Honorable David J. Hickton served as the U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania from 2010 to November of 2016.

In those six years, he rose to national prominence as a tireless advocate for fighting cybercrime and for working to stem the heroin epidemic across Pennsylvania and throughout the country. In 2015, the White House named him cochair of the National Heroin Task Force. Hickton also worked to build trust between police and members of the communities in which they serve.

Before becoming U.S. Attorney, Hickton engaged in the private practice of law, specializing in civil and commercial law and in the areas of transportation and white-collar crime. He is a 1978 graduate of The Pennsylvania State University and received his Juris Doctor degree in 1981 from Pitt's School of Law. He began his career as a law clerk, working for the Honorable U.S. District Judge Gustave Diamond from 1981 to 1983. For more than a decade, he was an adjunct professor of law at Duquesne University where he taught a course on antitrust.

A fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and the Academy of Trial Lawyers of Allegheny County, Hickton has been admitted before numerous courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court and the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. At the request of President Bill Clinton, he previously served on the President's Advisory Committee on the Arts for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

Hickton has long been a staunch supporter of many civic organizations, including those that benefit children and the arts. He served as an executive board member and president of Pittsburgh Public Theater and was a member of the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust.

In 2016, Pitt's School of Law named Hickton one of its Distinguished Alumni. That same year, *The Legal Intelligencer* named him Pennsylvania Attorney of the Year. Hickton and his wife, Dawne, have been generous supporters of Pitt in a number of projects, including helping to establish the Loren H. Roth, MD, Summer Research Program in the School of Medicine. Pitt recognized Hickton as a Legacy Laureate in 2013 and also that year presented him with its 225th anniversary medallion, an honor bestowed on alumni who have brought particular honor to the University through their work and service.

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