AGRICULTURE DECISIONS

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This 72nd edition of Agriculture Decisions honors Peter M. Davenport, who served as a United States Administrative Law Judge for more than two decades. Judge Davenport worked in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Office of Administrative Law Judges from 2005 until 2015, when he retired after presiding as Chief Administrative Law Judge for five years.

PETER M. DAVENPORT CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE



Chief Judge Peter M. Davenport was initially appointed as a United States Administrative Law Judge for the Department of Health and Human Services in May of 1994 and was assigned to the Paducah, Kentucky Office of Hearings and Appeals. In 1995, following the establishment of Social Security Administration as an independent agency, he transferred to that agency and remained in Paducah, Kentucky until May of 1996, when he moved to the Lexington, Kentucky Office of Hearings and Appeals.

In January of 2005, Judge Davenport transferred to the United States Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C. In June of 2007, he was recalled to active duty as a Colonel in the United States Army for service with the Provincial Reconstruction Team in Anbar Province, Iraq, where he held successive positions as Team Leader for the Rule of Law and Agriculture Teams and before leaving country was given overall responsibility for the Agriculture, Infrastructure and Economic Development Teams. He was named the Acting Chief Judge for the Department of Agriculture in January of 2010 and was appointed Chief Judge in June of 2010. Judge Davenport

Prior to becoming a judge, Judge Davenport spent ten years in the private practice of law in Lexington, Kentucky and served over eleven years as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Kentucky doing both civil and criminal work. His undergraduate and law degrees are from the University of Kentucky, and he has an LLM degree in Taxation from the National Law Center, George Washington University, Washington, D.C. Judge Davenport is a member of the Judicial Division of the American Bar Association and has served as the Secretary, Treasurer, Second and First Vice President, and President of the Federal Administrative Law Judges Conference.

Judge Davenport is married to the former Sherry Arlidge. He has three children from a prior marriage, Katherine Elizabeth Davenport Wisz (David), who is an Administrative Law Judge for the Social Security Administration in Raleigh, North Carolina; Taylor Davenport, who practices intellectual property law in Raleigh, North Carolina; and Second Lieutenant Sara Madison Davenport, USAFR, who is in medical school at the University of Kentucky in Lexington, Kentucky.