

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 10026

To designate courtroom 201 at the Howard T. Markey National Courts Building located at 717 Madison Place NW, Washington, DC, as the “Pauline Newman Courtroom”.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 3, 2026

Mr. ISSA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To designate courtroom 201 at the Howard T. Markey National Courts Building located at 717 Madison Place NW, Washington, DC, as the “Pauline Newman Courtroom”.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Honoring Circuit
5 Judge Pauline Newman Act of 2026”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Pauline Newman was born on June 20,
2 1927, and has devoted more than seven decades to
3 the practice of law and the advancement of Amer-
4 ican innovation.

5 (2) On January 30, 1984, President Ronald
6 Reagan nominated Pauline Newman to be a Circuit
7 Judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the
8 Federal Circuit. She was confirmed by the United
9 States Senate on February 27, 1984, and received
10 her commission on February 28, 1984, becoming the
11 first judge ever appointed directly to that court with-
12 out previously serving on a predecessor court.

13 (3) Judge Newman earned a Bachelor of Arts
14 from Vassar College in 1947, a Master of Arts from
15 Columbia University in 1948, a Doctor of Philos-
16 ophy in chemistry from Yale University in 1952, and
17 a law degree from New York University School of
18 Law in 1958.

19 (4) In 1951, Judge Newman became the first
20 woman holding a doctorate to be hired as a research
21 scientist at the American Cyanamid Company, where
22 she was listed as an inventor on multiple patents,
23 breaking barriers for women in the chemical sciences
24 and presaging her later trailblazing role in patent
25 law.

1 (5) From 1954 to 1984, Judge Newman
2 worked at FMC Corporation, ultimately as Director
3 of the Patent, Trademark, and Licensing Depart-
4 ment, and was for many years the only woman to
5 serve as chief patent counsel of a major United
6 States corporation.

7 (6) From 1961 to 1962, Judge Newman served,
8 on leave from FMC, as a science policy specialist
9 with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and
10 Cultural Organization (UNESCO), where she ad-
11 vanced international cooperation in scientific re-
12 search and the protection of intellectual property.

13 (7) Judge Newman was a founder and has
14 served in leadership positions in numerous scientific
15 and legal associations and organizations, including
16 the American Chemical Society, the American Insti-
17 tute of Chemists, the American Association for the
18 Advancement of Science, the American Intellectual
19 Property Law Association, the United States Trade-
20 mark Association, the New York Patent Law Asso-
21 ciation, the National Invention Center, the Judiciary
22 Leadership Development Council, the Giles S. Rich
23 American Inn of Court, the Licensing Executives
24 Society, and the International Patent and Trade-
25 mark Association, among many others.

1 (8) Judge Newman has also demonstrated her
2 commitment to the education of future leaders in
3 science and law through her service to educational
4 institutions and related organizations, including the
5 Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science, Vas-
6 sar College, the Medical College of Pennsylvania,
7 Yale University, Franklin Pierce Law School, the
8 New York University School of Law, and as Distin-
9 guished Professor of Law at the George Mason Uni-
10 versity School of Law. Judge Newman has trained
11 and mentored a family of 69 current and former law
12 clerks and dozens of interns and judicial scholars,
13 many of whom have gone on to lead distinguished
14 careers in their own right, including law firm part-
15 ners, public servants, legislators, judges and profes-
16 sors.

17 (9) Judge Newman served on a number of gov-
18 ernmental advisory committees and other initiatives,
19 including the Domestic Policy Review of Industrial
20 Innovation, the State Department Advisory Com-
21 mittee on International Intellectual Property, the
22 Special Advisory Committee to the Commissioner on
23 Patent Office Procedure and Practice, and the
24 United States Delegation to the Diplomatic Con-

ference on the Revision of the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property, among others.

(10) While serving on a presidential advisory committee under President Jimmy Carter, Judge Newman contributed to the effort that ultimately established the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. Her important role led to her nomination to that court by President Reagan just a few years later.

(11) Judge Newman has served as a judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit since 1984, a tenure of more than 42 years, and she is currently the oldest active Federal judge in U.S. history.

(12) Over the course of her tenure, Judge Newman has authored more than 1,000 opinions on the Federal Circuit, including more than 300 dissents, making her the most prolific dissenter in the history of the Federal Circuit.

(13) Judge Newman's opinions are widely recognized for their rigor and influence, and the Supreme Court of the United States has reversed or vacated a number of Federal Circuit decisions to adopt positions Judge Newman first articulated in dissent.

1 (14) Judge Newman’s distinguished service on
2 the Federal Circuit has been recognized by countless
3 people, not least of whom have been her colleagues
4 on the Federal Circuit. A chief judge of the court
5 observed, “there can be no doubt that Judge New-
6 man is the heroine of the patent system,” and noted
7 that “many of her dissents have gone on to become
8 the law”. Another chief judge of the Federal Circuit
9 commended her for being “a pioneer from the
10 start”, and shared that “her dissents have great
11 force and often persuade other colleagues over
12 time”. Still another former chief judge lauded her
13 longevity and remarked in 2023 that she is “as
14 sharp as ever”. Another Federal Circuit colleague
15 called her “a living legend, who epitomizes excel-
16 lence”, noting that she is “a role model for many
17 people in the IP world, and particularly women in
18 IP law”. Yet another colleague labeled her “an
19 icon”, and noted that she is “a beautiful writer”
20 who “demonstrates her views in very forceful, ele-
21 gant writing”. Still another colleague on her court
22 has praised “a persistence, a level of scholarship,
23 and an eloquence in her writings that are second to
24 none”, and called her both “the embodiment of the
25 Federal Circuit”, and “the conscience of the court”.

1 And Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg of the Supreme
2 Court praised Judge Newman for inspiring women
3 with “her intelligence, her diligence, her devotion to
4 a very difficult area of the law”.

5 (15) Judge Newman’s tremendous contributions
6 to the country, society, science, and the law have
7 been honored on hundreds of occasions throughout
8 her career, with awards including the Wilbur Cross
9 Medal of the Yale University Graduate School; the
10 Jefferson Medal of the New Jersey Intellectual
11 Property Law Association; the Award for Out-
12 standing Contributions to International Cooperation
13 from the Pacific Industrial Property Association; the
14 American Inns of Court Lewis F. Powell, Jr., Award
15 for Professionalism and Ethics; induction into the
16 Intellectual Property Hall of Fame; and the estab-
17 lishment of the annual Pauline Newman Award by
18 IPWatchdog recognizing lifetime achievement in pat-
19 ent law.

20 (16) Judge Newman’s professional accomplish-
21 ments, distinguished service, thoughtful jurispru-
22 dence, remarkable longevity, tremendous courage,
23 and status as an icon, role model, and trailblazer in
24 the American IP community deserve recognition and
25 commendation from a grateful nation.

1 **SEC. 3. PAULINE NEWMAN COURTROOM.**

2 (a) DESIGNATION.—Courtroom 201 at the Howard
3 T. Markey National Courts Building located at 717 Madi-
4 son Place NW, Washington, DC, shall be known and des-
5 ignated as the “Pauline Newman Courtroom”.

6 (b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, reg-
7 ulation, document, paper, or other record of the United
8 States to Courtroom 201 at the Howard T. Markey Na-
9 tional Courts Building referred to in subsection (a) shall
10 be deemed to be a reference to the “Pauline Newman
11 Courtroom”.

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