



George C. McKinnis

District Governor 2021-22, Rotary District 7320, New York

Judge George C. McKinnis was born and raised in Oklahoma. He graduated from Oklahoma University with a BA in English Literature and Philosophy. After receiving a JD from the University of Michigan Law School and serving in the US Army two times as an Infantry Officer, a Wall Street law firm brought George to New York in 1967. Five years later, he became Vice President and General Counsel of a British merchant bank, living and working in Nassau, Bahamas. George married his wife of over 48 years, Marlene, in Nassau and returned to New York City to join the ITT Legal Department.

When Judge McKinnis joined ITT, it was run by Harold Geneen and was the premier US international telecom company with a high market share in Europe and Latin America. George became responsible for many of the legal aspects of ITT's international telecom operations worldwide and contract administration in the US. In addition, he was General Counsel of ITT's Advanced Technology, Programming and Semiconductor Centers in Shelton, Stratford and Milford, Connecticut. George was a member of the small ITT legal team that negotiated and closed the two and one-half billion-dollar sale of all of ITT telecom and electronics to a French national company now known as ALCATEL.

After being part of the divestment team through the ALCATEL closing in late 1986, ITT sponsored Judge McKinnis to go back into private practice as a telecom and technology lawyer representing ITT and ALCATEL. Ever since then, through his retirement in 2018, George concentrated in high technology companies and transactions, including telecom, semiconductor, RFID and computer science companies.

He has aided many start-up companies, three of which became public companies and has been a director of multiple public and private companies.

Judge McKinnis and his wife have lived in Bronxville, for 40 years. They have two grown sons. He has performed various services for his community from being legal counsel to the Zoning Board of Appeals, to serving as Village Counsel on a pro bono basis for three consecutive mayors for multiple terms to becoming the Chief Justice for the Bronxville Justice Court for 24 years with criminal, civil, landlord tenant and traffic violation jurisdiction. During this period, Judge McKinnis initiated a restorative justice program as a replacement for incarceration for qualified criminal defendants in the Bronxville Court. During his tenure, he was president of the Westchester County Magistrates Association.

He was President for ten years of the Bronxville Beautification Council that is responsible for all of the plantings in the Bronxville commercial district and is a member of and a former President of The Bronxville Working Gardeners.

He is a member of the Bronxville Rotary Club, which has been very active in international projects, and has been President of that Club three times. At present, he is a Director of his Bronxville Rotary Club and will be the District Governor in 2021-22. He has been an Assistant District Governor and District Counsel of his Rotary District multiple times and was District Executive Secretary.

Judge McKinnis belongs to the Bronxville Field Club and the University Club of New York City. He retired from the US Army Reserves as an Infantry Captain.