

## 2021 West Salem High School Alumni Hall of Fame Inductee - Theresa Davis

Theresa Davis is a 1984 graduate of West Salem High School. After graduating, she began her college studies at the University of Wisconsin - La Crosse and ultimately graduated Summa Cum Laude from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Languages. She earned her Juris Doctorate degree from Chicago-Kent College of Law in 1994 receiving the prestigious American Jurisprudence Award for her respected academic achievements.

Theresa's incredible legal career began in the legendary States Attorney Office in Chicago. In 1996, she moved to private practice and worked towards partner status and finally achieved that in 2010 when she joined Loeb and Loeb, which has offices in major cities in the US along with international offices in Beijing and Hong Kong. After three years, she joined Reed Smith, another internationally distinguished firm, as a partner and continued her legal career while focusing on high profile litigation and crisis management. Her career led her to include admission to serve as attorney and counselor to both the Supreme Court of the United States and the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. As if that was not enough, she was named one of the Top 50 Women Illinois Super Lawyers from 2013-2016.

As we can see, she was strongly successful, yet Theresa also took great pride in mentoring aspiring attorneys and empowering women and she held advisory roles and also served as a board member for the National Women's Law Center. Her other professional affiliations included serving on the faculty of the John Marshall Law School, the boards of the American Bar Association on Women in the Profession, and the CBA Alliance for Women and the Women's Leadership Institute. It is clear that Theresa's passion for the law, for empowering women, and for her friends/family was key to her life. Unfortunately, Theresa lost her 13 month battle with cancer and passed away in September 2018. Theresa worked alongside many lawyers in the U.S. Department of Justice and when these colleagues learned of her passing, several of them called her firm to voice condolences and also to share how Theresa was universally respected and admired by several lawyers at the DOJ, and this was coming from the lawyers she argued and opposed in cases.

-Written by Stacy (Klos) Mitchell, 1989 West Salem graduate and member of the Alumni Hall of Fame Committee