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News

**Philadelphia University Welcomes Pennsylvania's First Lady,
The Honorable Marjorie O. Rendell, as Commencement Speaker**
May 16 event to be held at the Mann Center for the Performing Arts.

PHILADELPHIA (March 17, 2004) — The Honorable Marjorie O. Rendell, a sitting judge on the United States Court of Appeals and Pennsylvania's First Lady, will deliver the graduation address at Philadelphia University's 120th Commencement, scheduled for Sunday, May 16, 2004, at 11 a.m. at the Mann Center for the Performing Arts in the city's Fairmount Park.

Judge Rendell has enjoyed a long and distinguished legal career. She was a practicing attorney for over 20 years; and, in 1994, she was inducted as a judge of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. In 1997, Judge Rendell was elevated to her present position, as judge of the United States Third Circuit Court of Appeals.

During her professional career, Judge Rendell has served on a number of boards and has participated in various civic and cultural endeavors, including those that address the many needs and issues facing women and children throughout Pennsylvania. In addition, the First Lady is particularly interested in Pennsylvania's rich heritage and its relevance to the formation of our country's democratic principles and processes. Because of her long-standing regard for the history of our Commonwealth, Judge Rendell is focusing on the importance of creating an environment that will inspire an intellectual and emotional connection to our historical past and promising future. As a result, her remarks will center on a deeper understanding of our history and the privileges and responsibilities of citizenship.

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Judge Rendell helped found, and chaired, the independent, nonprofit organization, Avenue of the Arts, Inc., which plays a pivotal role in positioning Broad Street in Center City Philadelphia as a world-class cultural and performing arts district. She also serves as vice-chair of the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, and, in 1999, she established a Philadelphia Reads/Power Partners Chapter at the federal courthouse in Philadelphia, which continues today.

“We are proud to have such a distinguished federal judge and Pennsylvania champion speak at our 120th Commencement ceremonies,” said James P. Gallagher, Ph.D., president of Philadelphia University. “Judge Rendell’s inexhaustible commitment to our city, our state, and our country has had a great impact on society, as will her message to our graduates.”

An Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters will be bestowed upon Judge Rendell by Philadelphia University, in recognition of her exceptional legal, judicial and community service.

Philadelphia University, founded in 1884, is a private university with 3,500 part- and full-time students from 38 states and 42 countries. The University offers more than 40 undergraduate and graduate degree programs leading to the bachelor of science, bachelor of architecture, master’s degrees and a doctoral degree in Textile Engineering and Science. Academic programs encompass architecture, design, business, engineering, textiles, fashion, science and health.

**For more information on commencement exercises at Philadelphia University,
please contact Public Relations at 215.951.2851.**