Biographical Information
Maria-Claudia T. Amato

Maria-Claudia T. Amato is the General Counsel for the D.C. Department of Corrections, a position she has held since 2006. Ms. Amato practiced tort and business law in the private sector from 1987 to 1992. From 1992 to 2006, she served in the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia, where she rose through the ranks as an Assistant Attorney General, Section Chief for the Civil Rights Section, and Senior Counsel in the Equity Division. In the Attorney General's office, Ms. Amato specialized in litigating civil rights class actions involving systemic reform in a variety of criminal justice and social services systems such as corrections, institutional systems of delivery of medical and mental health care, the juvenile justice system, special education, foster care and adoption and services for persons with disabilities. She also litigated a broad spectrum of civil cases including habeas corpus petitions, personal injury, negligence, assault, medical malpractice, employment discrimination, constitutional and civil rights violations. As General Counsel to the Department of Corrections, Ms. Amato's experience also includes legislative and regulatory work, criminal law, employment matters and contracts and procurement. She serves as agency chief legal advisor, liaison to the bench and bar, agency ethics officer and oversees all litigation support. Ms. Amato serves on several commissions and committees related to the criminal justice system. Ms. Amato was born in Cairo, Egypt and immigrated to the United States as a child. She graduated with honors from Seton Hall University in 1984, and earned her law degree with honors from the American University Washington College of Law in 1987.