

Kimberly O'Brien, one of 6 children, attended Kings Park schools from Kindergarten through 12th grade. Upon graduation, it was expected that she would attend secretarial school, marry, settle down, and raise a family. However, Kimberly had other plans. She credits her English Teacher, John Bogenschutz, ("Mr. B") with mentoring, supporting, and encouraging her in the pursuit of higher education. He helped her to believe in herself and to take control of her life. With his and others' help, she received merit and financial aid scholarships.

She went on to obtain her B.A. from SUNY Oneonta in 1983 and her Juris Doctor degree from The American University, Washington College of Law in 1989. Starting as a legal assistant in Albany, Kimberly went on to work as a prosecutor in the Division of Legal Affairs for more than a dozen years. Since 2006, she has been an Administrative Law Judge in the New York State Department of Health, where she presides over complex, issue-driven hearings involving both State and Federal law and regulations. Judge Kimberly O'Brien is a shining example of a woman who pursued her dreams despite contrary expectations. Through hard work and determination she has built, in her own words, "a fascinating and fulfilling career in the law." Judge O'Brien and her husband live in a 100-year old house in Albany. Her daughter Portia, of whom they are so proud, attends SUNY New Paltz.