

United States District Court

Northern District of Illinois



Judge Marvin E. Aspen

Chambers: (312) 435 - 5696

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

DATE OF APPOINTMENT

July 24, 1979

ENTERED ON DUTY

September 4, 1979

JUDICIAL CAREER:

On July 24, 1979, Judge Aspen was appointed by President Jimmy Carter to the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois.

On July 1, 1995, he began a seven-year term as Chief Judge. In a 1988 survey of Chicago Litigators, the *Chicago Lawyer* magazine gave Judge Aspen the highest rating of any United States District Judge of the Northern District of Illinois. The *Chicago Lawyer* named Judge Aspen its 1995 Person of the Year.

Judge Aspen was a member of the United States Judicial Conference. He has served as a member of the International Judicial Relations, the Administration of the Bankruptcy System and of the Trial Bar Implementation Committees of the United States Judicial Conference. He is a past member of the Board of the Federal Judicial Center.

He served as Chair of the Committee on Civility of the Seventh Federal Judicial Circuit. This Committee promulgated civility standards that were subsequently adopted by the Seventh Circuit, and by Courts and Bar Associations nationwide.

Judge Aspen was the recipient of the Chicago Bar Association's 2009 Justice John Paul Stevens Award and the 2019 Vanguard Award (for achievement in making the law and the legal profession more accessible to, and reflective of, the community at large), the Center For Public Resources Award for Significant Practical Achievement for Excellence and Innovation for Alternative Dispute Resolutions and Dispute Management, and was awarded by the National Center for Freedom of Information Studies (Society of Professional

Biographical Data for Judge Marvin E. Aspen

www.ilnd.uscourts.gov/home/JUDGES/ASPEN/MEABio.htm

Journalists).

Biographical Data for Judge Marvin E. Aspen

Prior to his appointment to the United States District Court, Judge Aspen was a Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County of the State of Illinois. He was appointed to that position on September 16, 1971, and on November 4, 1974, elected to a full term. He served five years in the Criminal Division and three years in the Civil Law-Jury Division. As a state trial judge, Judge Aspen chaired the Recent Developments in Criminal Law, Evidence, and New Judges Committees of the Illinois Judicial Conference.

LEGAL PRACTITIONER:

Judge Aspen served as a law clerk in the United States Department of Justice in Washington, D.C., and for the Judge Advocate General Section of the United States Army. He was an Assistant State's Attorney of Cook County from 1960 through 1963, where he handled complex trials and appellate cases. Thereafter, he joined the staff of the Corporation Counsel of the City of Chicago, where he served as Head of the Appeals and Review Division of that office. He personally handled hundreds of appeals in state and federal courts, including the Supreme Court of the United States. Early in 1971, he resigned from the Corporation Counsel's Office and entered in the private practice of law, specializing in trial and appellate advocacy, prior to his appointment to the state bench.

Judge Aspen was a draftsman for and a member of the Illinois Supreme Court Committee to Revise the Illinois Criminal Code of 1961, Chair of the Associate Rules Committee of the Illinois Supreme Court, Chair of the Illinois Supreme Court Committee on Ordinance Violation Problems, and Vice-Chair of the Illinois Supreme Court Committee on Pattern Jury Instructions in Criminal Cases.

LAW PROFESSOR:

Judge Aspen has taught courses in federal evidence, criminal law, trial technique and municipal law at Northwestern University School of Law. In 1992, he was named the Edward Avery Harriman Adjunct Professor of Law by Northwestern University School of Law. He has lectured at judicial conferences and trial advocacy programs both in the United States and abroad. Subjects have included judicial management, trial bar rules, continuing legal education and complex litigation.

Biographical Data for Judge Marvin E. Aspen

He has planned and participated in legal seminars at, among other schools, Harvard University, Emory University, University of Florida, Oxford University (England), University of Bologna (Italy), Nuremberg University (Germany), University of Cairo (Egypt), University of Zimbabwe, University of Malta, University of the Philippines, University of Madrid (Spain). He has served as Chair of the Advisory Board of the Institute of Criminal Justice of the John Marshall Law School and as a member of the Georgetown University Law Center Project on Plea Bargaining in the United States. Judge Aspen also has been a faculty member of the National College of the State Judiciary, University of Nevada (Reno) and the National Institute for Trial Advocacy (Colorado). He has served on a special faculty (composed of British and American lawyers and judges) for the NITA Advanced Trial Advocacy Program, which introduces British trial techniques to experienced American Litigators. Judge Aspen also served on a special faculty (composed of Scottish and American lawyers and judges) for an American Bar Association program, which is designed to acquaint Scottish lawyers with modern litigation and technology.

Judge Aspen has written extensively on numerous legal subjects. His publications include five books and over two dozen articles.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES:

American Bar Association:

Judge Aspen is a past member of the Board of Governors of the American Bar Association, a member of the ABA Journal Board and of the House of Delegates. Judge Aspen was President of the American Bar Association Museum and a member of the Board of the American Bar Foundation and the American Bar Association Retirement Fund. He is past Chair of the Executive Committee of the National Conference of Federal Trial Judges (Judicial Administration Division). He has served as member of the Councils of both the Section of Litigation and the Section of Criminal Justice, and as Chair of the Section of Criminal Justice Committee Rules of Criminal Procedure. He was a member of the Editorial Board of the Section of Criminal Justice Magazine, *Criminal Justice*. He is past Co-Chair of the Liaison with the Judiciary Committee of the Section of Litigation. He has served as a member of the Jury Comprehension Study Committee of the Section of Litigation and has participated in Section programs throughout the country. He is Honorary Co-Chair of the Section of Litigation Judicial Intern Opportunity Program.

Biographical Data for Judge Marvin E. Aspen

Chicago Bar Association:

Judge Aspen served as a member of the Board of Managers of the Chicago Bar Association, as Chair of the Criminal Law Committee, and as a member of the Board of Editors of the *Chicago Bar Record*. He has been a member of the Chicago Bar Association's Special Commission on Criminal Justice, Committee on Committees, Committee on Continuing Legal Education, Committee on Development of Law, and Committee on Civil Disorder.

Illinois State Bar Association:

Judge Aspen served as Chair of the Public Relations, Corrections, Fair Trial/Free Press and Criminal Law Committees.

American Inns of Court:

Judge Aspen is a past member of the Board of Trustees of the American Inns of Court Foundation. He was one of the organizers and past president of the Northwestern University School of Law American Inns of Court Chapter.

Northwestern University:

Judge Aspen has received the Northwestern University Alumni Association Award of Merit. He is past president of the Northwestern University School of Law Alumni Association. He has served as a member of the Visiting Committee of the University of Chicago Law School and the Northwestern University School of Law, and the Visiting Committee of the Northern Illinois University School of Law. He was Chair of the Advisory Committee for Short Courses (Post Law School Educational Program) at Northwestern University School of Law.

Other Professional Activities:

Judge Aspen was a member of the Federal Bar Examination Committee of the National Conference of Bar Examiners. He has served as a Commissioner of the Illinois Law Enforcement Commission and the Governor's Advisory Commission on Criminal Justice. Judge Aspen has been a member of the Cook County Board of Corrections and the Board of the John Howard Association (an independent prison reform organization).

EDUCATION

Judge Aspen attended Loyola University (Chicago) and received a B.S.L. and J.D. from Northwestern University School of Law.

MILITARY:

Served both on active duty and reserve status. Honorably discharged from United States Air Force on August 23, 1964.