



United States District Court
Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division
219 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois 60604

Release Date:
June 17, 2019

Contact:
Julie Hodek
(312) 435-5693 (phone)
julie_hodek@ilnd.uscourts.gov

Court Hosts “Reflections from the Court at the Heart of America: Judicial Oral History Project” with an Interview with Judge Bauer

Chicago, Ill. - On June 13, 2019, in celebration of its bicentennial year, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois hosted the second interview of “Reflections from the Court at the Heart of America: Judicial Oral History Project” with an interview with Circuit Judge William J. Bauer entitled, “*Reflections on a Six-Decade Career in Public Service in the Law.*”

“As we celebrate the year of our Court’s 200th anniversary, we are delighted to highlight Judge Bauer’s indelible influence on our Court in this series of judicial interviews. Judge Bauer’s impact on our Court and district can be described in two words – transformational and transgenerational,” said Chief Judge Rubén Castillo.

The interview was conducted by District Judge Charles P. Kocoras, who was hired as a prosecutor by Judge Bauer after Bauer was appointed U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois in 1970. As U.S. Attorney, Bauer transformed the office, doubling the size of the attorney staff and hiring future U.S. Attorney and Illinois Governor Jim Thompson, future U.S. Attorney and U.S. Secretary of Transportation Samuel Skinner, future U.S. Attorneys Dan Webb and Anton Valukas, and future District Court Judge Charles Kocoras. Webb, Valukas, and Skinner, all in attendance at the interview, reflected on the significant role Judge Bauer has played in their own lives and careers.

Judge Bauer also shared stories about his family upbringing on the South Side of Chicago and later in Elmhurst, Illinois, as well as his fascinating career before joining the federal bench, including early work as a delivery boy with the Saturday Evening Post and as a dishwasher, later as an attorney in private practice, as DuPage County State’s Attorney, and as a state court judge in DuPage County.

March 3, 2019, marked the 200th anniversary of federal courts in Illinois. Throughout its bicentennial year, the Court has hosted this Judicial Oral History Project Series and other events

to celebrate the individuals and cases that have shaped the court and community. Information on upcoming bicentennial events will be posted on the Court's [website](#).



Judge Kocoras and Judge Bauer



Chief Judge Castillo offers welcoming remarks

##

