Court Information Release



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

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After distinguished career on federal bench, Judge Darrah assumes senior status

Chicago, Ill.- District Judge John Darrah took senior status effective March 1, 2017. Judge Darrah served as a federal district judge since July 14, 2000.

"I want to thank Judge Darrah for his great dedication and service to this Court and the citizens of this district for the past seventeen years," said Chief Judge Rubén Castillo.

On May 11, 2000, Judge Darrah was nominated by President Bill Clinton to serve as a U.S. District Court Judge. Born in Chicago, Illinois, Judge Darrah received a B.S. from Loyola University and a J.D. from Loyola University School of Law. He was an attorney advisor for the Federal Trade Commission and a deputy public defender in the DuPage County Public Defender Office. From 1971 to 1973 and 1976 to 1986, Judge Darrah was in private practice in Illinois. He was an Assistant State's Attorney and served as a circuit court judge of the Illinois 18th Judicial Circuit Court.

Beginning at age 65, a judge may retire at his or her current salary or take senior status after performing 15 years of active service as an Article III judge. Senior judges, who essentially provide volunteer service to the courts, typically handle about 15 percent of the federal courts' workload annually.