

Court Information Release



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Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division
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Statement of Chief Judge Rubén Castillo On the Passing of Retired District Judge George W. Lindberg

Chief Judge Rubén Castillo announced that Senior District Judge George W. Lindberg passed away on March 19, 2019, at age 86.

George W Lindberg was nominated to the U.S. District for the Northern District of Illinois by President George H.W. Bush on September 21, 1989. He was confirmed by the Senate on November 3, 1989, and received his commission on November 6, 1989. He assumed senior status on June 21, 2001, and retired December 31, 2012.

Judge Lindberg was born on June 21, 1932, in Crystal Lake, IL. Judge Lindberg earned his undergraduate degree from Northwestern University in 1954 and his law degree from Northwestern University School of Law in 1957. While attending law school, he studied the polygraph technique with John E. Reid and Northwestern Professor of Law Fred E. Inbau, the leading authorities on the polygraph technique and criminal interrogation. Upon graduation, he continued with John E. Reid's investigation firm, conducting several thousand polygraph examinations before resigning in 1968 to enter the private practice of law and to continue his legislative and public service career.

From 1967 to 1973, he served three consecutive terms in the Illinois House of Representatives. While serving in the Illinois House, Judge Lindberg was chief sponsor of the Illinois Governmental Ethics Act, requiring Illinois public officials and candidates for office to disclose their economic interests annually. Authorization for the Act was one of four reforms he recommended to the Illinois Constitutional Convention in 1969. Those reforms became part of the Illinois Constitution of 1970 and earned him the nickname "Mr. Ethics."

He was elected Comptroller of the State of Illinois in 1972 and served in that role until 1977. He was appointed deputy attorney general, State of Illinois, from 1977 to 1978. He was elected to the Illinois Appellate Court, Second District, and served from 1978 until his nomination to the federal bench in 1989.

Judge Lindberg was passionate about the law and devoted his career to public service. Between his service on the Illinois Appellate Court and the federal bench, he spent 34 years as a judge, leaving a lasting impact on our Court. We will miss our dear colleague. Our hearts and prayers are with his family during this difficult time.

Chief Judge Castillo stated that, "Judge Lindberg was a great colleague, with a heart of gold who epitomized the term 'public servant.' He truly leaves a tremendous legacy in the State of Illinois."

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