

## Court Information Release



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

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### **U.S. District Court in Rockford Commemorates 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of a Full-time District Judge with Ceremony and Portrait Dedication**

*Rockford, Ill.*- In a special ceremony on October 18, 2019, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois celebrated the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of a full-time district judge in the court's Western Division. The court unveiled a portrait of U.S. District Judge Stanley J. Roszkowski, who was assigned full-time to the Western Division in 1984.

"The full-time assignment of the Honorable Stanley J. Roszkowski to the court's Western Division profoundly impacted the court and access to justice for the people of the western part of our district. Judge Roszkowski loved Rockford, and Rockford loved Judge Roszkowski," said Chief Judge Rebecca R. Pallmeyer.

Prior to 1975, the U.S. District for the Western Division of the Northern District of Illinois was based in Freeport, Illinois. Once a year, for many years, a district judge from Chicago would travel to Freeport to hold a status conference in a courtroom on the second floor in the U.S. Post Office in Freeport. By October 1974, Congress passed legislation to allow the relocation of the District Court from Freeport to Rockford. In 1977, Rockford attorney Stanley J. Roszkowski, was appointed to the U.S. District Court. By 1978, a federal building containing two courtrooms was formally dedicated and Judge Roszkowski was assigned to Rockford. However, Judge Roszkowski maintained his chambers in Chicago and was required to maintain a full caseload in Chicago while traveling to Rockford once a month to hear cases. In 1984, the court assigned Judge Roszkowski entirely to the Western Division, marking the first full-time district judge assigned to the court's Western Division.

Other speakers at the ceremony included Mayor of Rockford, Tom McNamara; U.S. Magistrate Judge P. Michael Mahoney (Ret.); a representative from the Office of Congresswoman Cheri Bustos; a representative from the Office of Congressman Adam Kinzinger; and John Roszkowski, Judge Roszkowski's son.

In Rockford, court is held at the Stanley J. Roszkowski U.S. Courthouse. Covering more than 210,000 square feet on 5.5 acres, the Roszkowski Courthouse features a glass atrium and a glass-enclosed jury assembly room. Opened in 2011, the courthouse is a model for sustainable design and construction and features extensive use of locally-sourced and recycled building materials.

This year marks the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of federal courts in Illinois. The Western Division includes the counties of Boone, Carroll, DeKalb, Jo Daviess, Lee, McHenry, Ogle, Stephenson, Whiteside, and Winnebago.

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