

Court Information Release



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

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the Northern District of Illinois
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Hon. John W. Darrah honored in memorial ceremony

CHICAGO, Ill. - In a moving ceremony, judges, former colleagues, friends and family members honored the life of Judge John "Jack" Darrah and his impact on the court. Judge Darrah passed away on March 23, 2017.

"Judge Darrah served the people of this community with dignity and grace. He served with warmth, compassion and a keen sense of justice and touched the hearts of many, many people," said Chief Judge Rubén Castillo.

During a special session of court, judges, family members, friends, former colleagues, attorneys, former law clerks, and former students spoke to Judge Darrah's love of family, his humble upbringing, his compassion, his commitment to public service, his love of fishing and his devotion to his beloved Chicago White Sox.

As is custom in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, the portrait of Judge Darrah will be moved from the west wall to the east wall of the James Benton Parsons Memorial Courtroom.

Judge Darrah was appointed to the court by President Bill Clinton in 2000. Born in Chicago, Illinois, Judge Darrah earned his undergraduate degree from Loyola University in 1965 and his law degree from Loyola University School of Law in 1969. He served as an attorney advisor for the Federal Trade Commission from 1969 to 1971. From 1971 until 1973, he was a Deputy Public Defender for the DuPage County Public Defender's Office and also worked in private practice during that period. He was DuPage County Assistant State's Attorney from 1973 until

1976. He was in private law practice in Illinois from 1976 until 1986. He was elected Circuit Court Judge for the 18th Judicial Circuit, DuPage County, Illinois, and served in the Chancery Division from 1986 to 2000. He taught as an adjunct professor at Northern Illinois University College of Law and John Marshall Law School.

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