



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

**Release Date:**  
March 20, 2018

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United States District Court for  
the Northern District of Illinois  
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**Statement of Chief Judge Rubén Castillo**  
**On the Passing of Senior District Judge Paul Edmund Plunkett**

Chief Judge Rubén Castillo announced that Senior District Judge Paul Edmund Plunkett passed away at age 82. Paul Edmund Plunkett was born on July 9, 1935, in Boston, Massachusetts. In 1957, he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Harvard University and a law degree from Harvard Law School in 1960. He served in private practice in Chicago from 1960 to 1963. He served as an Assistant United States Attorney of the Northern District of Illinois from 1963 to 1966, returning to private practice from 1966 to 1983. He was an adjunct professor at the John Marshall Law School from 1963 until 1976, and at the Loyola University Chicago School of Law from 1977 to 1982, returning to John Marshall in 1982.

On November 23, 1982, he was nominated by President Ronald Reagan to a seat on the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. He was confirmed by the U.S. Senate on December 10, 1982, and received his commission that day. He assumed senior status on July 10, 1998.

As an Assistant United States Attorney, he helped prosecute Teamsters President James R. Hoffa and seven others for mail and wire fraud and conspiracy to defraud the Teamsters Union Pension Fund. As a District Judge, he presided over the 1996 jury trial of the Gangster Disciples.

Judge Plunkett was a skilled jurist and beloved colleague during his distinguished career on our Court. His commitment to the impartial administration of justice left a lasting impact on our court and community. Judge Plunkett's love of our Court, and the law in general, was legendary as evidenced by his long additional career as a law professor. We will miss him greatly. Our hearts and prayers go out to Paul's family during this difficult time.

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