

Court Information Release



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
EASTERN DIVISION
219 SOUTH DEARBORN STREET
CHICAGO, IL 60604

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Terry MacCarthy Stepping Down as Top Federal Defender in Northern District of Illinois

CHICAGO – After 42 years with the Federal Defender Program of the Northern District of Illinois, Terrence F. MacCarthy is stepping down as its Executive Director effective January 1, 2009. Carol A. Brook, the Program’s Deputy Director since 1986, will become Executive Director on that day. Ms. Brook has been with the Office of the Federal Defender Program since 1976.

Chief Judges James F. Holderman stated, “We cannot thank Terry enough for all the excellent work he has done in building the Federal Defender Program here in Chicago into a model for public defender offices across the nation. His continuing legal education programs are legendary, as is he.”

Chief Judge Holderman also noted, “Carol Brook is an outstanding lawyer and the unanimous choice of everyone to succeed Terry. Carol has been a real leader of the Federal Defender Program for all the years she has served there. She will continue the tradition of excellence for which our court’s Federal Defender Program is known.”

Mr. MacCarthy, who is a nationally sought-after speaker, will continue to be an essential part of the Federal Defender Program, taking on the responsibility of continuing legal education training and mentoring of the defense attorneys who participate in the Northern District’s Federal Defender Program.

The press release issued by the Federal Defender Program, which follows, provides further details.

Press Release

FEDERAL DEFENDER PROGRAM, NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

The Executive Committee of the Federal Defender Program for the Northern District of Illinois today advised the District Court that Terence F. MacCarthy, who for forty-two years has ably served as the Program's Executive Director, will be stepping down the first of the year and that the Committee has selected the Program's long-time Deputy Director, Carol A. Brook, to succeed him. MacCarthy will continue working with the office.

The FDP Executive Committee told the Court it expects the transition to be seamless and that the quality of representation and service to the Program's clients and to the Court will continue to be outstanding.

Ours was the first Federal Defender Office in the country. Over the years, MacCarthy, Brook and the office have deservedly received the praise of the legal community. The office is acknowledged to be one of the best defender offices in the country. Our Court agrees with this praise. Since its inception, the lawyers and staff of the office have served the Court and the client community exceptionally well. Their professionalism, ability and dedication have been and are extraordinary.

In 2000, our Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit and the American Inns of Court gave MacCarthy its prestigious Professionalism Award and in 2004, our Court honored MacCarthy and the Federal Defender Office with our Excellence in Pro Bono and Public Interest Service Award. Also in 2000, Federal Defenders from across the country named him the "Defender of the Century."

MacCarthy, who enjoys a deserved reputation as one of the best trial advocacy teachers in the country, has received awards from the ABA, where he served on the Board of Governors, the Illinois Bar Association, the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, the National Legal Aid and Defender Association, the Illinois Attorneys for Criminal Justice and the Illinois State's Attorneys Association.

Several Universities, Colleges and Law Schools have honored MacCarthy,

including his own Law School, DePaul, and his undergraduate college, St. Joseph's College. He has also been honored by the University of Virginia, Northwestern and the University of Wyoming. Last year, Stetson Law School inducted him into its Trial Advocacy Hall of Fame and appointed him a Distinguished Visiting Professor, an honor he also received from University College Dublin.

MacCarthy has lectured in all 50 states and over a dozen foreign countries, and has given talks for 26 State Bar Associations. He has taught for the Federal Judicial Center, the Department of Justice and the State of Illinois Attorney General's Office.

Carol A. Brook joined the office after her graduation from the University of Illinois College of Law in 1976. She has ably served the office as a Staff Attorney, Chief Appellate Attorney, Intern Project Supervisor and, since 1986, its Deputy Director.

She is past-president of the National Association of Federal Defenders, serves on the Board of the Chicago Chapter of the Federal Bar Association and is the incoming-president of the Illinois Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

A frequent lecturer and legal writer, Brook has received many professional awards and honors, including the IACDL Lifetime Achievement Award, the National Association of Federal Defenders Outstanding Assistant Federal Defender Award and Harvard Law School's Wasserstein Public Interest Fellowship.