

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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Court Remembers Judge John F. Grady in Ceremony on Anniversary of His Passing

Chicago, Ill. – On December 2, 2020, in a virtual ceremony, the district court honored the life of Judge John F. Grady. Former colleagues on the bench, former law clerks, and the Judge’s son, John Grady, Jr., shared stories of the late judge and reflected on the lasting impact he had on their lives and careers.

“As we celebrate Judge Grady’s remarkable life, this court is full of gratitude today for Judge Grady and the career he devoted to the law, this court, and the United States,” said Chief Judge Rebecca R. Pallmeyer.

Speakers included:

- Chief Judge Rebecca R. Pallmeyer, Northern District of Illinois
- Hon. Gabriel A. Fuentes, U.S. Magistrate Judge, Northern District of Illinois*
- Geraldine M. Alexis, Esq., Retired Partner, Perkins Coie, San Francisco, California*
- Richard S. Cornfeld, Esq., Law Office of Richard S. Cornfeld, St. Louis, Missouri*
- Tina Tchen, Esq., President and CEO of TIME’S UP Now, Chicago, Illinois*
- Hon. Catherine R. Connors, Associate Justice, Supreme Court of Maine, Kennebunk, Maine*
- Hon. Charles P. Kocoras, U.S. District Judge, Northern District of Illinois, Chief Judge 2002-2006
- Conor McAuliffe, Esq., Managing Director for European Affairs, United Airlines, Dublin, Ireland*
- Howard R. Orenstein, Esq., Five-Term Member, Minnesota House of Representatives. St. Paul, Minnesota*

- Karol V. Mason, Esq., President, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, New York, New York*
- Hon. Marvin E. Aspen, U.S. District Judge, Northern District of Illinois, Chief Judge 1995-2002
- Robert J. Zaideman, Esq., Zaideman & Esrig, P.C., Chicago, Illinois*
- John F. Grady, Esq., Partner, Grady Bell LLP, and son of the Hon. John F. Grady, Chicago, Illinois

During the ceremony, Judge Grady's former law clerks announced an initiative in Judge Grady's honor: The former clerks have established the [Honorable John F. Grady Teachers Institute and Student Court Field Trip Scholarship](#), an experiential learning program for students, to be jointly administered with the American Bar Association. This program will illuminate the vital role of the judiciary in our government by offering institutes for teachers and field trips to the courthouse for students.

Judge Grady was born on May 23, 1929, in Chicago, Illinois. His early education was in Chicago and Springfield, Ill. In 1952, he received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Northwestern University. He earned his law degree from Northwestern University School of Law in 1954 and was Associate Editor of the Northwestern Law Review. Judge Grady served as an Assistant United States Attorney in Chicago from 1956 to 1961 and was Chief of the Criminal Division from 1960 to 1961. He then practiced law in Waukegan, Illinois, for 15 years, 13 of them as a sole practitioner specializing in civil trial and appellate practice.

Judge Grady was nominated to the U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois, by President Gerald R. Ford on October 20, 1975. He was sworn in on November 21, 1975 and served as the court's chief judge from July 1, 1986 to June 30, 1990. He took senior status on May 23, 1994 through January 30, 2015. Judge Grady passed away on December 2, 2019 at the age of 90, leaving his devoted wife of 51 years, Patricia Grady, his son, John Grady, Jr., daughter-in-law Jenny, and two grandchildren.

*Former Law Clerk to Judge Grady

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