



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE CLERK
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BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02210

Robert M. Farrell
CLERK OF COURT

PRESS RELEASE

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United States Senior District Judge Edward F. Harrington, 80, announced today that he will assume inactive status effective December 31, 2013.

Judge Harrington served as a United States District Judge for over 25 years and, before his judicial appointment, as an attorney for the United States Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. and in Boston in various positions for over 15 years. Those positions include United States Attorney and Chief of the Organized Crime Strike Force. He was a member of a select group of attorneys sent by Attorney General Robert Kennedy to Mississippi during the "long hot summer of 1964" to protect the rights of college students, who were conducting schools in voter registration there.

He is one of only 7 individuals who have served as both United States District Judge and United States Attorney for the District of Massachusetts since the District was established in 1789.

Judge Harrington was appointed as United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts by President Reagan on February 22, 1988 and assumed Senior District Judge status on March 1, 2001.

Chief Judge Patti Saris noted, "During his quarter century of judicial service, Judge Harrington skillfully addressed a broad range of demanding and novel issues, including the 'fraud on the market' doctrine in securities fraud cases, the use of 'repressed memory' in sexual abuse cases, the scholastic standards required of learning-disabled students in private schools, the diligence required of federal regulators in the fishing industry, contentious confrontations at abortion clinics, the constitutionality of the cell tower legislation, and discovery rules for electronic documents. In addition, he participated in many major patent cases involving significant inventions in the medical, electronic and communication fields. With versatility, energy and common sense, Judge Harrington provided a model for the independent generalist judiciary established by our Founders through the Constitution."

Judge Harrington was an early critic of the mandatory Sentencing Commission Guidelines, criticizing them for their inflexibility and severity. As a Senior Judge he declined to hear criminal cases based on his belief that the Guidelines infringed the sentencing judge's traditional discretion. After the United States Supreme Court ultimately rendered the Guidelines discretionary, rather than mandatory, Judge Harrington resumed trying criminal cases.

In summing up his approach to judicial service, Judge Harrington said, "As a Judge, I had no agenda other than to try to resolve disputes justly and expeditiously under established principles of law".