



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

Robert M. Farrell

CLERK OF COURT

PRESS RELEASE

MARCH 6, 2025

United States District Judge Nathaniel M. Gorton has advised President Trump that he intends to take senior status effective May 31, 2025. He will continue to serve as a senior United States District Judge.

Nathaniel M. Gorton was appointed United States District Judge by President George H. W. Bush in September 1992. For 12 years he served as the first federal judge appointed to sit in the Central Division of the District of Massachusetts (Worcester). In 2004 he was reassigned to the Eastern Division (Boston) when Judge Robert Keeton took senior status. In 2001 Judge Gorton was appointed by Chief Justice Rehnquist to serve a seven-year term on the United States Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court which duties he performed in addition to his regular function as a district judge. Judge Gorton has also served on the Judicial Conference Committee on Judicial Resources from 1997 to 2003 and as a member of the Committee on Intercircuit Assignments. In 2018 he was appointed by Chief Justice Roberts to a seven-year term to the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation on which he continues to serve and which requires bi-monthly travel to judicial circuits nationwide.

Judge Gorton has been an active supporter of civics education as the Court liaison judge to Discovering Justice and by participation in the Lindsay and Nelson Fellows programs.

Prior to his appointment as a federal judge, he was in private practice in Boston, Massachusetts for 26 years, first at Nutter, McClennen & Fish and then at Powers & Hall, P. C. where he engaged in all phases of civil business litigation in federal and state courts in Massachusetts and several other states. He was also General Counsel to his family seafood distribution business. He is a graduate of Dartmouth College and Columbia University Law School and served on active duty as an officer in the U. S. Navy in the western Pacific.

Chief Judge F. Dennis Saylor IV said: "Judge Gorton has served on the District Court with distinction for more than thirty years, during which he has earned a national reputation for his good judgment, common sense, wisdom, and practicality. His hard work and steady presence on the bench have earned him the respect of colleagues, litigants, and lawyers alike, as well as a well-deserved reputation for civility and tactfulness. His devotion to public service is reflected not only in his work on the district court, but also his terms on the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation, and Judicial Conference committees. His legacy as a judge, mentor, and public servant will be felt throughout the legal community for generations."

Before appointment to the bench, he was engaged in numerous civic activities, including Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Buckingham Browne & Nichols School, an elected Town Meeting Member, an appointed member of two state commissions, Senior Warden of his church, a little league and youth hockey coach and involved in several political campaigns. He is married to Jodi Linnell Gorton and they have three children and six teenage grandchildren. He is still an active tennis and hockey player and enjoys sailing.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS
1 COURTHOUSE WAY
SUITE 3110
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02210

NATHANIEL M. GORTON
DISTRICT JUDGE

February 28, 2025

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

This is to advise you that effective May 31, 2025, I intend to retire from regular active service as a United States District Judge pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §371(b)(1), i.e. take senior status. I have attained the age and met the service requirements of §371(c) of that statute.

It has been my great honor and privilege to serve as a United States District Judge since I was appointed by President George H.W. Bush in 1992. It is my intention to continue thereafter to render substantial judicial service as a senior judge.

Respectfully yours,



Nathaniel M. Gorton
United States District Judge

cc: The Honorable John G. Roberts, Jr., Chief Justice of the United States
The Honorable David J. Barron, Chief Judge
United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit
The Honorable F. Dennis Saylor, Chief Judge
United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts
The Honorable Robert J. Conrad, Jr., Director
Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts
The Honorable Jeremy D. Fogel, Director
Federal Judicial Center
Susan J. Goldberg, Circuit Executive
United States Court for the First Circuit
Robert M. Farrell, Clerk
United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts
Carol S. Sefren, Chief
Judges Compensation and Retirement Division
Administrative Office of U.S. Courts