

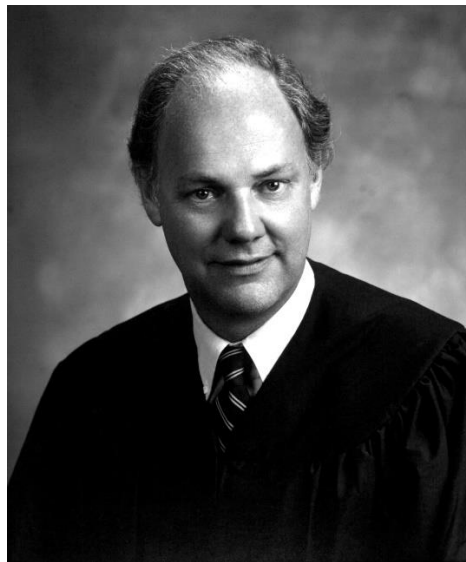
Court Information Release



United States District Court
Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division
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Court Mourns the Passing of the Honorable Harry D. Leinenweber

CHICAGO, Ill.- Harry D. Leinenweber, a United States District Court Judge, passed away this evening at the age of 87.

“Judge Harry D. Leinenweber was a friend, mentor, and model jurist. My colleagues and I are deeply saddened by Judge Leinenweber’s passing. We hope for comfort and peace for his family. We thank his family for sharing him with us for over 39 years,” said Chief Judge Rebecca R. Pallmeyer.

Judge Leinenweber was born in Joliet, Illinois. He earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Notre Dame in 1959 and his law degree from the University of Chicago Law School in 1962. In addition to an extensive career in private practice from 1962 to 1986, Judge

Leinenweber also served as a city attorney for the City of Joliet, Illinois from 1962 to 1967. He served as special prosecutor for Will County, Illinois from 1968 to 1970; special counsel to the Village of Bolingbrook, Illinois from 1975 to 1977; special counsel to the Will County (Illinois) Forest Preserve in 1977; and State Representative to the Illinois House of Representatives from 1973 to 1983.

Judge Leinenweber was nominated to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois by President Ronald Reagan on November 7, 1985. He was confirmed by the Senate on December 16, 1985, and received his commission on December 17, 1985. He assumed senior status on June 3, 2002, and maintained an active caseload until the end of his life.

“Judge Leinenweber had a brilliant mind and a calm, completely non-pretentious demeanor. He loved being in court and was a terrific trial judge—often volunteering to take trials for colleagues who were overwhelmed. To the end of his life he kept an active calendar, ruling on motions and disposing of cases,” Judge Pallmeyer added.

A celebration of Judge Leinenweber’s life and career will be held at the Dirksen U.S. Courthouse in the future.

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