

James Byron Moran

Born June 20, 1930, in Evanston, Illinois
Died April 21, 2009, in Evanston, Illinois

Federal Judicial Service

Judge, U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois
Nominated by President Jimmy Carter on May 22, 1979
Inducted on September 10, 1979
Served as Chief Judge, 1990-1995
Assumed Senior Status on June 30, 1995

Education

University of Michigan, B.A., 1952
Harvard Law School, LL.B., 1957

Military Service

U.S. Army Sergeant, 1952-1954

Professional Career

Law Clerk, Hon. J. Edward Lumbard, U.S. Court of Appeals,
Second Circuit, 1957-1958
Private Practice, 1958-1979
Member, Illinois General Assembly, 1965-1966
Member, Evanston City Council, Illinois, 1971-1975

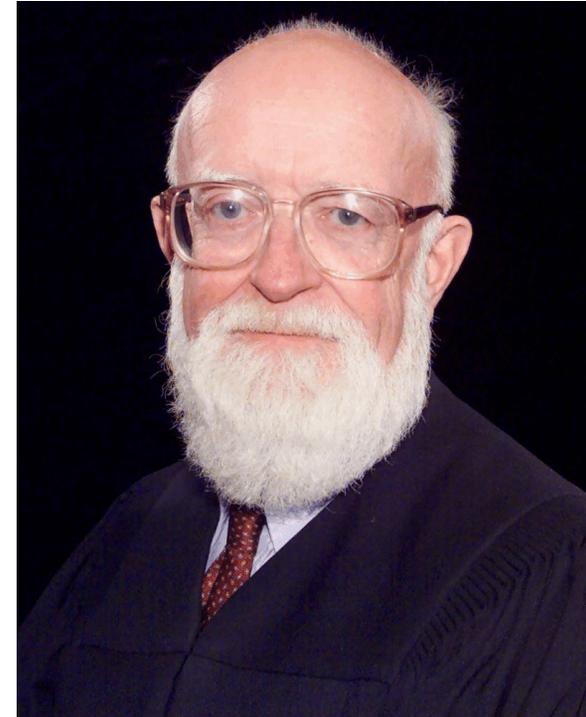
Professional Organizations/Committee Appointments

Judicial Conference Committee on Financial Disclosure
Chicago Bar Association
Chicago Council of Lawyers
The Lawyers Club of Chicago
Seventh Circuit Bar Association



United States District Court
Northern District of Illinois
Everett McKinley Dirksen United States Courthouse
219 South Dearborn Street
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Memorial Service



The Honorable James B. Moran
1930 - 2009

James Benton Parsons Memorial Courtroom
Twenty-Fifth Floor
Everett McKinley Dirksen
United States Courthouse
219 South Dearborn Street
Chicago, Illinois

Monday, July 13, 2009, at 3:30 p.m.

By any measure, Jim Moran was an extraordinary person. This is not the sentiment born of the charity that death often imposes on our remembrances. It is the universal judgment of all who knew him. He radiated gentleness and humility, and he had a nobility of character and purity of soul possessed by only a few. No less apparent was the remarkable acuteness of his mind and the genius that he brought to the art of judging. And oh, how he loved being a federal judge, how great he was at it, and how effortless he made it all look.

After graduating in 1957 from the Harvard Law School, *magna cum laude*, Jim clerked on the Second Circuit for Edward Lumbard. Jim's office was across the hall from Learned Hand, who by then was a legendary figure in American law, as Jim recalled in a charming interview in the June 2008 *Circuit Rider*. At the end of his clerkship, Hand gave him an autographed picture and a copy of his famous book, "The Bill of Rights," with this inscription: "To James B. Moran, with many thanks for the help he has given me. Learned Hand." The picture hung inconspicuously behind a door in Jim's chambers, while the book was tucked away on a shelf. No one knew these treasures were there. But Jim did, and that was enough for him.

When Jim returned to Chicago in 1958, he joined Bell, Boyd. Faithful to his belief that lawyers had an obligation to participate in the life of the community—as he put it, "to give something back"—he deeply immersed himself in politics and in service to his community as an elected member of the Illinois Legislature and as a member of many private and professional boards. In 1979, at the urging of Senator Stevenson, President Carter appointed him to the federal bench in Chicago. For the next 30 years he served the Nation with rare distinction. He was the Chief Judge of this Court from 1990 to 1995, and then took Senior status. He was universally admired and respected for his keen intelligence, for his unfailing patience and courtesy, and for his sympathy for points of view with which he may not have agreed. He was a very great judge.

Besides the law, Jim's passions were his wife, Janet, his children and grandchildren, his friends, and, of course, sailing. His death is an irreparable loss to them, to the Court, and to all those who knew him. While Judge Hand may have been Jim's judicial model, the judge to whom he is closest in character is Justice Cardozo. Hand's eulogy to the Justice perfectly describes our cherished friend, Jim Moran:

"He was wise because his spirit was uncontaminated because he knew no violence or hatred or jealousy or ill will. . . . It was a rare good fortune that brought to such eminence a man so reserved, so unassuming, so retiring, so gracious to high and low, and so serene. He is gone and . . . it is well for us to pause and take count of our own coarser selves. He has a lesson to teach us if we stop and learn; a lesson quite at variance with most that we practice, and much that we profess."

Memorial Service in Remembrance of
the Honorable James B. Moran

Welcome: Chief Judge James F. Holderman

Featured Remembrances:

Hon. William J. Bauer,
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit

Hon. Ilana Diamond Rovner,
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit

Hon. Abner J. Mikva, Retired Judge,
U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia (1979-1994)

Hon. Adlai E. Stevenson, III, U.S. Senator of Illinois (1970-1981)

Dawn Clark Netsch, Illinois Comptroller (1991-1995);
Professor Law Emeritus, Northwestern University

Rev. Dr. Leon D. Finney, Jr., Chairman and CEO
of Woodlawn Community Development Corporation

Michael D. Karpeles, Partner, Greenberg Traurig, LLP;
President, Salvation Army Correctional Services
Program Advisory Council

Benjamin S. Wolf, Associate Legal Director, Roger Baldwin
Foundation of ACLU; law clerk to Judge Moran (1979-1980)

Lisa Kate Osofsky, Regulatory Advisor, Control Risks
London; law clerk to Judge Moran (1987-1988)

Geoffrey Meyer, law clerk to Judge Moran (2007-2009)

Judges of the United States District Court

Conclusion: Chief Judge James F. Holderman

Reception: 25th Floor Lobby Area