

For Immediate Release
September 9, 2021

P R E S S R E L E A S E

United States District Court Northern District of Indiana

Courtroom Named in Honor of Judge William C. Lee

FORT WAYNE, Indiana (September 9, 2021): On July 9, 2021, the Judges of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Indiana resolved to honor the life, career, and legacy of the Honorable William C. Lee by naming the courtroom in which he presides in his honor. In recognition of Judge Lee's remarkable service to his community, the State of Indiana, and the United States of America, the second-floor courtroom of the E. Ross Adair Federal Building and the United States Courthouse at 1300 South Harrison Street, Fort Wayne, Indiana, in dedication to him is named, *The William C. Lee Courtroom*.

President Ronald Reagan appointed Judge William C. Lee to the bench on July 28, 1981. Judge Lee assumed senior status on February 3, 2003, and continues to serve with distinction as a United States District Judge for the Northern District of Indiana.

Before he served as a federal district judge, Judge Lee was nominated at the unusually young age of 31 to serve as United States Attorney for the Northern District of Indiana and held the position from 1970 until 1973. A dedicated public servant, Judge Lee was appointed in 1963 as Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for Allen County and served as Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney from 1967 until 1969. Prior to these appointments, Judge Lee practiced law in Allen County, Indiana where he established a reputation as an outstanding trial attorney.

Throughout Judge Lee's entire career, he has been active with organizations involved in providing legal services to the indigent and continuing legal education for practicing lawyers. During his 60 years in the legal profession, Judge Lee received many honors, including Indiana Trial Judge of the Year and Lifetime Achievement Awards from the Allen County Bar Association and the Volunteer Lawyer Program, to name a few. In addition to his many legal pursuits, Judge Lee was also very active in community affairs involving the arts, education, and several other areas of public interest.

Chief Judge Jon E. DeGuilio remarked on behalf of the Court, "Judge Lee has had a remarkable career of public service. During his forty years on the bench he has served with distinction. I know I speak for all of my colleagues when I say it has been an honor to serve with someone of such high character and ability. And so it is wholly appropriate that he receive this recognition. The courtroom dedication will be a constant reminder of his legacy and an inspiration to all who are respectful of the rule of law."

A portrait and a plaque honoring Judge Lee have been placed outside the designated courtroom to memorialize the occasion.

The Resolution signed by the District Judges and issued as a General Order can be viewed on the Court's website: www.innd.uscourts.gov. An event celebrating the naming of the courtroom will be held at a later date, at which time the Resolution will be formally presented to Judge Lee.