

Statement of the United States District Court for the Western District of Virginia  
on the passing of Senior United States District Judge Glen E. Conrad

May 21, 2021

The United States District Court for the Western District of Virginia is saddened to announce the death of Senior United States District Judge Glen E. Conrad on May 20, 2021. Judge Conrad had served this court and the citizens of the Western District of Virginia for 45 years.

Born in Radford, Virginia, Judge Conrad graduated from the College of William & Mary in 1971 with a B.A. in government. He went on to obtain his J.D. in 1974 from the College's Marshall-Wythe School of Law.

He began his career in federal service as a probation officer and law clerk in Abingdon, Virginia, in 1975. He was appointed United States Magistrate Judge in May of 1976 and served in that capacity in the Abingdon, Charlottesville, and Roanoke divisions of the court for over 27 years. At the time of his appointment, he was the youngest magistrate judge in the nation. While serving in that capacity, Judge Conrad set up a consolidated prisoner management system in the Western District, which later became a model for other courts across the country.

In April of 2003, President George W. Bush nominated Judge Conrad to serve as United States District Judge, and the Senate confirmed his nomination that same year. He served as Chief Judge from 2010 to 2017. He assumed senior status in December of 2017 but continued to maintain a full civil caseload.

Throughout his career, Judge Conrad served with humility and respect for others. He actively promoted the practice of mediation and served as a mentor to generations of young attorneys, including those who had the honor of working for him as law clerks. His empathy for everyone who appeared before him was apparent, as was his love for his job. Judge Conrad especially enjoyed the naturalization ceremonies over which he presided, and he often spoke fondly of the stories shared and the people he met from all over the world. Likewise, he never forgot the criminal defendants who stood before him, and he often wrote them offering encouragement many years later.

Judge Conrad was involved at various times throughout his career with a number of legal organizations, including the Ted Dalton Chapter of the American Inn of Court, for which he served a term as President, the Federal Bar Association, the Federal Judges Association, and the National Council of United States Magistrate Judges.

Outside of court, Judge Conrad worked for many years with the American Legion's Virginia Boys State program, which he first attended as a delegate in 1966. He was eventually inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1995 and was instrumental in rewriting the workbook and bylaws that have been in use in some form ever since.

He is survived by his wife of 39 years, Mary Ann Steger Conrad.