



**UNITED STATES COURTS FOR THE FIRST CIRCUIT
OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT EXECUTIVE
JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE
1 COURTHOUSE WAY - SUITE 3700
BOSTON, MA 02210**

**SUSAN J. GOLDBERG
CIRCUIT EXECUTIVE
617-748-9614**

**FLORENCE PAGANO
DEPUTY CIRCUIT EXECUTIVE
617-748-9376**

For immediate release

Contact: Susan J. Goldberg
(617) 748-9614

STATEMENT OF FIRST CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS REGARDING PASSING OF JUDGE MICHAEL BOUDIN

BOSTON (March 24, 2025)—The United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit mourns the passing of Judge Michael Boudin, who died on March 24, 2025, at the age of 85. The members of the court express deepest condolences to his family, especially his nephew, Chesa Boudin, Executive Director of the Criminal Law & Justice Center at the University of California, Berkeley, School of Law, and his wife, Martha Field, Langdell Professor of Law at Harvard University. Judge Boudin was a Court of Appeals judge for more than 29 years.

Judge Boudin was born in New York, New York, on November 29, 1939. Judge Boudin earned a B.A. from Harvard College in 1961 and graduated from Harvard Law School, where he served as President of the Harvard Law Review, in 1964. Following law school, Judge Boudin served as law clerk to Judge Henry J. Friendly of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit from 1964 to 1965, and as law clerk to Justice John Harlan of the Supreme Court of the United States from 1965 to 1966. He then worked in private practice in Washington, D.C., from 1966 to 1987. In 1987, Judge Boudin left private practice and served as Deputy Assistant Attorney General in the Antitrust Division of the U.S. Department of Justice until 1990, when he was appointed to the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. Judge Boudin served as a district judge on that court until 1992, when he was elevated to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit. Judge Boudin served as chief circuit judge from 2001 to 2008, in which role he also served as a member of the Judicial Conference of the United States. He assumed senior status in 2013, in which capacity he continued to provide valuable service to the Court of Appeals, before retiring in 2021.

Judge Boudin was a highly respected jurist. He was elected to the Council of the American Law Institute in 1980 and took emeritus status in 2010. Judge Boudin was elected to the oldest learned society in the United States, the American Philosophical Society, in 2010. In 2014, Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr., of the Supreme Court of the United States presented him with the American Law Institute's Henry J. Friendly Medal, which is awarded to individuals who make extraordinary contributions to the law. Further, from 1982 to 1983, he was a Visiting Professor at Harvard Law School, and, from 1983 to 1998, he was a Lecturer at Harvard Law School.

Chief Judge David J. Barron said, "Judge Boudin served as a law clerk for two of the most respected judges of their era. He in turn became one of the most respected judges of his own. Through nearly three decades worth of opinions that were elegant, penetrating, and candid about

the difficulty of the judgment that had to be made, he brought light to area after area of law. In doing so, he demonstrated the importance to our system of government of the task of judging in ways that only the finest judges can. His example remains for all of us on this court and all those serving in the federal judiciary."

Judge Sandra L. Lynch, a former chief judge of the court who served with Judge Boudin, stated, "Judge Michael Boudin was one of the greatest federal judges of his generation, known and widely respected for his brilliance and wisdom. His work embodied the virtues of judicial restraint and showed extraordinary mastery of the doctrines undergirding the Constitution. His excellent opinions demonstrated respect for the legislative and executive branches and for the protections of individuals in the Bill of Rights. He was modest, kind, insightful, and measured. I and his other colleagues on the First Circuit held him in highest esteem and affection and were so very fortunate to have shared the bench with him."

Judge Jeffrey R. Howard, another former chief circuit judge who was on the bench with Judge Boudin, remarked, "Among jurists and legal scholars, Michael Boudin was known for his brilliant mind and his deep understanding of economic and social forces. His frequently cited opinions will live on in American jurisprudence. I will remember him most fondly for his steady hand as chief judge of our court and for the many kindnesses he showed me when I was a new judge."