

STATEMENT OF FIRST CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS REGARDING PASSING OF JUDGE NORMAN H. STAHL

BOSTON (April 10, 2023)—The United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit mourns the passing of Judge Norman H. Stahl and expresses sincerest condolences to his family, especially his wife, Sue, and their two children, Peter and Ellen. Judge Stahl died on April 8, 2023, at the age of 92. Judge Stahl served on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit since 1992.

"Norm, as I knew him, welcomed me to the court that he loved from my first days on it. He had a deep appreciation for this country and for the state that raised him. He loved the law, in an intensely practical way. He knew it affected people, and he always had his eye on how it would. He was a person of strong views who was always open to being persuaded of a different view. He was a great storyteller and also a person of great curiosity. But above all, he was a caring and decent person, with a special capacity for friendship. He made the First Circuit a better court for his being on it, and I shall miss him terribly," First Circuit Court of Appeals Chief Judge David J. Barron said.

Judge Bruce M. Selya remarked, "Norman Stahl came to the federal bench from a thriving corporate practice. His keen mind and his commitment to intellectual rigor were extraordinarily helpful assets in resolving the most complicated cases."

Judge Sandra L. Lynch said, "Judge Stahl enriched the Court of Appeals with his invaluable wisdom and judgment grounded in his own life experience—as a U.S. District Judge, as an attorney representing both private and public clients, and as a trusted advisor to many who carry great responsibility. He served the United States and his beloved New Hampshire much more than very well. He was a joy to be with, practical, utterly fair, compassionate, an uncommonly decent man, and a good friend."

"I had the privilege and pleasure of working closely with Norman for almost 23 years. He was a wonderful judge—brilliant, wise, hardworking, and vastly experienced from his long and distinguished career in private practice. And he was a wonderful person and friend—thoughtful, caring, and delightful company because of his many interests and acute observations about people and politics. I was the recipient of his many kindnesses over the years, and I will miss his company and wise counsel. Norman gave so much to all of us. His loving family, his colleagues, his many friends, and the larger public he served so well for so many years have suffered a great loss," remarked Judge Kermit V. Lipez.

Judge Jeffrey R. Howard said, "A lawyer who was as comfortable counseling Presidents, governors, and CEOs as he was trying cases in police court in Manchester, New Hampshire, on a moment's notice, Judge Norman Stahl will be remembered for his many lucid and prescient federal rulings on behalf of the First Circuit Court of Appeals that were instrumental in providing a legal bridge between the old economy and the technology-based world of today. In all cases, he was known for his unmatched concern for fairness and for the marginalized in society. Beyond the courtroom, Judge Stahl was a loving husband and father, patron of the arts, voracious consumer of academic literature, unabashed sports fan, and selfless mentor to countless numbers of young lawyers. Perhaps no person has been more instrumental in developing and supporting the judges of New Hampshire's state and federal judiciaries than Judge Stahl. As one among them, I will be forever grateful to Judge Stahl for his guidance and example."

Judge O. Rogeriee Thompson stated, "I think the most invaluable advice Judge Stahl passed along to me when I came on board was to always keep an open mind."

"Judge Stahl personified grace and respect in his dealings with his colleagues. In so doing, he nourished the collegiality that has long marked judicial service on the First Circuit Court of Appeals. And in his retirement, the interest he showed in the court and his former colleagues reminded us that he remained devoted to the cause of justice, and to the welfare of his friends. We will miss our colleague and our friend," remarked Judge William J. Kayatta, Jr.

"I met Judge Stahl over thirty years ago, when I was a law clerk and he had just joined the circuit bench. Throughout my career as attorney and later as judge, he always provided me sound advice and encouragement. He was a magnificent role model and excellent friend to those who continue to follow his footsteps," said Judge Gustavo A. Gelpí.

Judge Stahl was born in Manchester, New Hampshire, in 1931. He graduated from Tufts College *magna cum laude* in 1952 and received his law degree from Harvard Law School in 1955. Following law school, he served as a law clerk to Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court Justice John V. Spalding. In 1956, he joined the firm now known as Devine Millimet, in Manchester, New Hampshire, and remained with the firm until his appointment as a district judge for the U.S. District Court for the District of New Hampshire in 1990. Judge Stahl was appointed to the First Circuit Court of Appeals in June 1992 and assumed senior status in April 2001.

Judge Stahl served the city of Manchester and the state of New Hampshire in various positions, including as Acting Manchester City Solicitor (1975), member and chairman of the New Hampshire Board of Bar Examiners, and member and chairman of the State Judicial Council.