



News Release

FROM: Chambers of the Chief Judge
19th Judicial Circuit
Lake County
Waukegan, Illinois 60085-4359

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Waukegan, Illinois

ASSOCIATE JUDGE JOHN J. SCULLY RETIRES

Following a career of distinguished public service spanning more than half a century, Judge John J. Scully retired as Associate Judge from the Lake County Bench.

“As Judge Scully retires from the bench after 10 years, his lifetime record of achievement speaks volumes about his character and his service in the public arena,” said Chief Judge Jay W. Ukena “Judge Scully’s noteworthy body of work includes active duty with United States Navy, a Vietnam War veteran, a JAG Officer, a United States Naval Reserve Intelligence Officer and Analyst, an Assistant State’s Attorney with Lake County, an Assistant US Attorney prosecuting some of the most high-profile cases out of the Chicago office, a business law instructor at the College of Lake County, and finally an Associate Judge for the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit. John has provided exemplary service encompassing national, state, and local levels,” added the Chief Judge.

Mr. Scully is a graduate of the United States Naval Academy and University of San Diego School of Law, graduating with honors in 1974. He was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1978.

Mr. Scully began his military career with the United States Navy in 1965 and served on the USS *Hull* off the coast of Vietnam from May of 1970 to August of 1971, providing Naval gunfire support. He resigned with the rank of Lieutenant Commander in 1978. He then served in the United States Naval Reserves from 1978, finally retiring after twenty-one years with the rank of Captain in 1999. While in the Reserves, as a JAG Officer, he specialized in intelligence assignments, and both the prosecution and defense of Sailors and Marines.

His career in Lake County began as an Assistant State’s Attorney in the early 80’s for 14 months. By 1982, he joined the Department of Justice as a Special Attorney with the US Organized Crime Strike Force, which merged with the US Attorney’s Office in 1990. Some of the highlights of Scully’s legal career with the DOJ include the prosecution of former Chicago Police Chief of Detectives William Hanhardt, who ran the Chicago Outfit interstate jewelry theft crew, the prosecution of the On Leong gambling ring based out of the South Side’s Chinatown, and the prosecution of the Operation Family Secrets which resulted in convictions involving 18 unsolved murders dating back to 1970.

On October 28, 2008, Scully was presented with the John Marshall Award from the Attorney General of the United States. This award is the Department of Justice’s highest award presented to attorneys for contributions and excellence in legal performance.

While with the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit, he was the driving force behind the Veterans History Project, which began in 2012; the mission is to collect, preserve, and make accessible the personal accounts of American war veterans so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand the realities of war. He also presided over 47 jury trials in the past 10 years, having the highest number of juries in both 2017 and 2018 for the entire Circuit.

Chief Judge Ukena stated, “Judge Scully’s knowledge of the law, experiences prosecuting and defending, his genuine demeanor, his humbleness, and his assertiveness made him a great judge for the people of Lake County. We are grateful for his years of service and wish him the best in his retirement.”

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