

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Attorneys who practice in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Ohio

FROM: Pat E. Morgenstern-Clarren, Chief Judge

DATE: 4 April 2013

RE: Passing of the Honorable Richard L. Speer

With a heavy heart, I write to tell you that Judge Richard L. Speer, the senior member of our bench, died unexpectedly early yesterday evening. Judge Speer suffered a heart attack at the Toledo courthouse after a full day of work; the paramedics revived him and took him to St. Vincent, but he died shortly after that.

Each of us will remember something different about Judge Speer. As for me, I think of the judge who so warmly welcomed me to the bench 18 years ago, who was always available for advice and freely offered assistance to others who needed docket relief. The person with the sharp wit and warm heart. The court historian who lived through so many twists and turns in the bankruptcy world over his 38 years on the bench. The mentor who welcomed law students into chambers so that they could learn how the court works from the inside out. And the man who was devoted to his wife Anita, and their children and grandchildren.

Judge Speer spoke often about what a privilege it was to serve as a United States Bankruptcy Judge. To that, I add that it was a privilege to have him as a colleague.

Funeral arrangements have not been finalized. Those who wish to contact the family may do so at this address: 612 Harrison Street, Port Clinton, OH 43452.