



**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN**

**PAUL L. MALONEY
CHIEF JUDGE**

**410 W. Michigan Ave.
Kalamazoo, MI 49007**

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PRESS RELEASE

February 18, 2015

With profound sadness the Judges of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Michigan have received word that our friend and esteemed colleague, United States District Judge Richard Alan Enslen, died peacefully on February 17, 2015 after a long illness.

Judge Enslen was born in Kalamazoo in 1931 and called it home for virtually all of his life. He entered Kalamazoo College in 1949, but interrupted his education to join the Air Force in 1951 and served during the Korean War. He resumed his education upon his return, earning an LL.B. degree in 1958 from Wayne State University and an LL.M. in 1986 from the University of Virginia.

Judge Enslen practiced law with several firms in Kalamazoo from 1958 through 1965 leaving practice in 1965 to serve as the Director of the U.S. Peace Corps in Costa Rica. Upon his return to West Michigan in 1968 Judge Enslen served for a year as Judge of the Kalamazoo Municipal Court and for one additional year as a Michigan District Judge. He resumed the practice of law in 1970, practicing with the law firm of Howard & Howard and later as a partner with the law firm of Enslen and Schma until his appointment to the U.S. District Court in 1979.

President Jimmy Carter nominated Judge Enslen to the Court on November 30, 1979 and he was confirmed by the United States Senate on December 21, 1979. Judge Enslen served as Chief Judge from 1995-2001, and assumed senior status four years later, on September 1, 2005. He retired in 2009.

Chief Judge Paul Maloney remarks, "I had the distinct honor to serve with Judge Enslen in the Kalamazoo Federal Courthouse from 2007 until his retirement. As his successor in office, the judge welcomed me to the court and provided his sound advice as I acclimated to the District Court. I will be forever grateful for his wise counsel. Judge Enslen served with true distinction, always with a steadfast resolve to serve justice with respect to all persons who came before the court. He will be greatly missed."

We will honor our colleague with a court memorial ceremony at a time and place to be announced in the coming weeks.

The Judges of the Court extend our Sympathy to his wife, Pamela, and his children.

Funeral arrangements are pending at this time.