

PRESS RELEASE

U.S. Courts, District of Idaho • U.S. Courthouse, 550 W. Fort St. • Boise, Idaho • • Fax:

For Immediate Release

Date: July 12, 1999
Contact: Cameron Burke
Phone: 334-1373
Fax: 334-9362

On July 1, 1999, the Honorable Edward J. Lodge's seven year term as Chief District Judge came to an end. At that time, B. Lynn Winmill became the Chief Judge for the District of Idaho.

While Judge Lodge will continue as a District Judge, he has already left a lasting legacy for the District of Idaho. During his term as Chief Judge, the District underwent major changes and boasted many achievements. His leadership was instrumental in any significant accomplishment within the District of Idaho. Some of these are listed below:

- ▶ Completion of the Criminal Advisory Report for expense and delay reduction, chaired by Chief Judge Lodge
- ▶ Completion of the Civil Justice Reform Act for expense and delay reduction
- ▶ Support and leadership for the Gender Fairness Committee
- ▶ Consolidation of court services between the District and Bankruptcy Courts which resulted in permanent cost savings
- ▶ Initiation of the State/Federal Judicial Council for sharing resources and policies between the Supreme Court and the Federal Court
- ▶ Initiation of the highly regarded District Conference, a continuing education program for Judges and Lawyers.
- ▶ Initiation of ADR programs and the expanded use of Magistrate Judges in resolving civil proceedings
- ▶ Support and leadership of numerous automation initiatives such as imaging, creation of the Internet/Intranet, video conferencing, and evidence presentation equipment
- ▶ Completion of the Long Range Plan for the District of Idaho
- ▶ Oversight and leadership over major construction projects in Boise, Coeur d'Alene and Pocatello

Chief Judge Lodge continues to be widely respected by judges, the bar and the litigants who come before him. His State Bar ratings continue to be among the state's highest. Whether a case is large or small, Chief Judge Lodge is widely known for taking extra time to assure litigants rights to receive a fair trial. Judge Lodge once said, "you have to be willing to give people their day in court

and to understand that this is usually the most important thing in their life, whether it's a big case or a small case, and treat it as such."

In regard to Judge Lodge's leadership, Chief Judge Winmill said "the high regard in which he is held by his peers is reflected by his selection as chair of the Chief Judges Conference for the Ninth Circuit." Chief Magistrate Judge Williams noted, "the people of the State of Idaho owe a deep debt of gratitude to Judge Lodge for his many years of unselfish public service." Chief Bankruptcy Judge Jim D. Pappas said, "In sum, the Court is a better place because of Judge Lodge's outstanding leadership."

Chief Judge Lodge presided over arguably the largest case in District of Idaho when he tackled the U.S.A. vs. Weaver original case. Despite the national media requests and pressure from attorneys who vigorously fought for the best legal position, Chief Judge Lodge managed the trial efficiently and maintained expert control throughout the proceedings. His work on this case has become a model for handling notorious trials.

Chief Judge Lodge served in the State Judiciary as a Probate and District Judge for 25 years before coming to the Federal Court system, first as a Bankruptcy Judge and then two years later as our District Judge. Judge Lodge was the recipient of the Kramer Award for Excellence for Judicial Administration, was an All-American in Track, Football and as a Golden Gloves Champion. He has received numerous awards during his career including being voted one of the state's best judges, receiving the Idaho State Bar's Professionalism Award in 1997, and being selected as a Distinguished Citizen for the Idaho Hall of Fame. During the last two years, Judge Lodge served on the Ninth Circuit Judicial Council and was selected to chair the Conference of Chief District Judges.

During his confirmation proceedings before the United States Senate, Senator McClure said, "Certainly, there never has been before this committee a more-qualified or better-prepared candidate for nomination and confirmation as a United States District Judge." Senator McClure's words certainly reflect our experience of Edward J. Lodge's outstanding service during the last seven years as the Chief Judge for our District.