

United States District Court

for the District of Columbia
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Washington, DC 20001

Chambers of
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Chief Judge

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Statement of Chief Judge James E. Boasberg On the Death of Retired Magistrate Judge Alan Kay

With the death of retired Magistrate Judge Alan Kay on February 25, 2024, we lost a dear friend, a generous colleague, and a gifted jurist.

Judge Kay served this Court with distinction for twenty-seven years. He was first appointed as a magistrate judge in 1991 and was reappointed three times. Judge Kay officially retired in 2016, but he continued to serve the Court in recall status until 2018. Judge Kay received his bachelor's degree from the George Washington University and his law degree from the George Washington University National Law Center. He began his legal career by clerking for two district judges on this Court – the Hon. Alexander Holtzoff and the Hon. William B. Jones. His wide-ranging prior experience as a public defender, federal prosecutor, and law firm partner served him well during his judicial career.

In the courtroom, Judge Kay earned a reputation for treating litigants courteously and fairly, while bringing a careful eye and a sharp legal mind to the issues presented. He was a masterful mediator. Judge Kay extended warmth and friendship to all those around him, and he was a beloved and respected figure in the courthouse. He will be missed.