



United States District Court
for the District of Columbia

James E. Boasberg
Chief Judge

October 17, 2025

**Senior District Judge John D. Bates Awarded the
2025 Edward J. Devitt Distinguished Service to Justice Award**

Senior District Judge John D. Bates has been awarded the 2025 Edward J. Devitt Distinguished Service to Justice Award. This prestigious honor recognizes members of the federal bench who have served with distinction and made significant contributions to the administration of justice and the legal community over the course of their careers.

Judge Bates is indeed a worthy recipient of this honor. A member of this bench for over 23 years, his extraordinary contributions to the federal judiciary extend well beyond this Court. He served on the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court for seven years, including four as presiding judge, and served as director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts for almost two years, all the while maintaining a caseload as an active district judge. He has been a leader in developing federal judicial policy through his service on several Judicial Conference committees.

Never one to seek the spotlight, Judge Bates is widely recognized by his colleagues for his reasoned legal views and for his dedication to this Court and the federal judiciary as institutions. Judge Bates has served this country for over 50 years, beginning with his service in the United States Army in Vietnam, and throughout it all has been unwavering in his dedication and commitment to the administration of justice and rule of law.

Please join us in congratulating Judge John D. Bates on this well-deserved recognition.