

THE HONORABLE ALAN N. BLOCH

April 12, 1932 - October 6, 2024



The Honorable Alan N. Bloch, 92, United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania, passed away at his home, surrounded by family, on October 6, 2024.

Judge Bloch was born and raised in Pittsburgh, where he graduated from Taylor Alderdice High School in 1949. He is a graduate of the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, receiving a B.S. degree in 1953; and the University of Pittsburgh, receiving a J.D. degree in 1958. He served in the United States Army as a Lieutenant from 1953 to 1955 in Germany; the Pennsylvania Army National Guard from 1955 to 1959; and the United States Air Force Reserves from 1959 to 1963.

He began practicing law with the Pittsburgh firm of Wirtzman, Sikov & Love and became a partner there before leaving with his friend Jim Flaherty to form their own firm, Flaherty & Bloch, where he practiced from 1969 until 1979.

Judge Bloch was appointed United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania following his nomination by President Jimmy Carter. He continuously served on the Court for 45 years, presiding over thousands of federal civil and criminal cases and leading important national and Third Circuit Court initiatives, including service on the Judicial Conference's Court Security Committee, and chairing a joint Task Force established to make recommendations regarding the appointment of defense counsel in capital punishment cases.

He was a member of the Academy of Trial Lawyers of Allegheny County, a prestigious organization that recognizes leading attorneys and judges in the region. The Academy's Annual Retreat Program was re-named in Judge Bloch's honor in recognition of his leadership and dedication to the Academy.

A lifetime Pittsburgher, he loved his community. Prior to becoming a judge, he co-chaired the planning committee that brought Three Rivers Stadium to the North Shore in 1970, then served as Vice Chairman of the stadium authority until 1979 (not a bad decade to be in the front row of the Steelers' and Pirates' six championships). He also served on the Board of Make-A-Wish Greater Pennsylvania and West Virginia, which during his tenure became one of the largest and most successful wish granting operations for children with life-threatening illnesses.

Judge Bloch absolutely loved his public service as a federal judge which is why he became a senior judge but never retired. He proudly carried the reputation of being tough, but was passionate about protecting the rule of law and ensuring that all parties, in every case, received fair treatment. He viewed mentoring the law clerks and staff who supported him over five decades as one of the best parts of the job. The legal profession may remember him as tough, but friends and family knew him as caring, happy, and always positive.

The only thing he loved more than his career was his family. Judge Bloch is survived by his beloved wife of 67 years, Elaine Amdur Bloch; daughter, Rebecca Lando (Mark); daughter, Carolyn Bloch (Steven Beltz); son, Evan Bloch (Lauren), all three of whom became lawyers like their father; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, Gustave and Molly Bloch; sister Erma Bloch Beck; and sister Beverly Bloch Savitt.

Donations in Judge Bloch's memory may be made to Make-A-Wish Greater Pennsylvania and West Virginia (<https://wish.org/greaterpawv>) or The Pittsburgh Foundation/Alan and Elaine Bloch Family Fund, which supports organizations that make Pittsburgh a better place to live (<https://pittsburghfoundation.org/donate>).

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