Judge RICHARD MILLS celebrated his 50th year on the bench. He served as circuit judge of the 8th Judicial Circuit of Illinois for ten years and judge of the Appellate Court of Illinois for nine years before his appointment by President Ronald Reagan as a U.S. District Judge for the Central District of Illinois in 1985. Having started his career as a judge in the same courtroom where Abraham Lincoln tried the famous “Almanac Trial,” Mills says that his half-century on the bench has been “a marvelous adventure!”

Former Judge G. MICHAEL WITTE received the Daniel K. Inouye Trailblazer Award, the highest award from the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association, for his achievements, commitment, and leadership that paved the way for other Asian Pacific American attorneys. The first Asian Pacific American elected judge in Indiana, Witte served the Dearborn County Court from 1985 to 2000, Dearborn Superior Court from 2000 to 2008, and Wayne Superior Court in 2009.

Judge R. HOMER DRAKE JR. of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Georgia was the 2017 recipient of the Bankruptcy Inn Alliance Distinguished Service Award by the American Inns of Court. Drake has been a U.S. bankruptcy judge since 1964. The award recognized his long-standing dedication to professionalism and civility.

Judge ANTHONY J. SCIRICA, a senior judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, received the 2017 American Inns of Court Lewis F. Powell, Jr., Award for Professionalism and Ethics. The award recognized Scirica’s exemplary service in the areas of legal excellence, professionalism, and ethics.

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