



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

WESTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK
UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE
100 STATE STREET, ROOM 2720
ROCHESTER, NEW YORK 14614-1363

CHAMBERS OF
FRANK P. GERACI, JR.
CHIEF JUDGE

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Hon. Hugh B. Scott
United States Magistrate Judge - Western District of New York
1949-2021

On February 19, 2021, the United States District Court for the Western District of New York lost a giant.

Judge Hugh Scott was a trailblazer who broke down barriers, becoming the first African American Assistant Attorney General in charge of Western New York as well as the first black Assistant United States Attorney in the Western District of New York, Assistant Buffalo Corporation Counsel, and Assistant Erie County Attorney.

Recognized for his intelligence, calm demeanor, and deliberate decision making, he was elected to the Buffalo City Court and later appointed to the federal bench as a United States Magistrate Judge.

Yet none of the lofty titles he held defined this man. Rather he was known as a caring individual who utilized the powers of these various offices to improve the lot of others. He was dedicated to using his God-given skills to help lead those who went astray on a more positive path. His work on the Buffalo City Court as well his work in the United States District Court's Re-Entry Court were perfect examples of his efforts.

When those who knew him best reflected on their impression of Hugh Scott, a common theme evolved. They offered that they never heard a bad word about Hugh Scott and Hugh Scott never had a bad word to say about others.

Judge Scott was a mentor to many in the legal community, including lawyers and judges. He served as a model of what a judge and lawyer should aspire to be. His impact on this community will be everlasting.

Judge Scott was a person who cherished his family and friends. The feeling was mutual.

The twinkle in his eye that was ever present will be missed but will remain a wonderful memory.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once prayed:

“Use me, God, to take Who I am, Who I want to be, and What I can do, and use it for a purpose greater than myself.”

Judge Hugh Scott lived by the principles articulated by Dr. King.

Because of the way he lived his life, loved his friends and family, and served the greater good, the world is a better place.

We are all richer for having Judge Hugh Scott in our lives. In his name and memory, we shall pledge to carry on his good works.

Hon. Frank P. Geraci, Jr.
Chief Judge, Western District of New York