



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
District of Rhode Island

PASSING OF THE HONORABLE BRUCE M. SELYA

It is with profound sadness that the United States District Court for the District of Rhode acknowledges the passing of the Honorable Bruce M. Selya, who died peacefully on February 22, 2025, surrounded by his loving family at the age of 90.

Judge Selya was nominated by President Ronald Reagan on July 27, 1982, to a seat on the U.S. District Court for the District of Rhode Island vacated by Raymond J. Pettine and confirmed by the Senate on August 18, 1982. He served with distinction until November 24, 1986, when he was elevated to a newly created seat on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit where he served for more than 38 years. He assumed senior status on December 31, 2006, and served as an active senior member of the Court until his final day.

Judge Selya was born in Providence, Rhode Island and received his undergraduate degree, *magna cum laude* from Harvard College in 1955, and his law degree, *cum laude* from Harvard Law School in 1958.

Judge Selya was one of the most widely quoted jurists in America. He was revered for his logical, concise, and masterful legal analysis—enhanced by his trademark wit and dignified style. His opinions, authored with such articulatory precision, have guided legal thought for decades, leaving an indelible impact on the judiciary and beyond.

Reflecting on his legacy, Judge William E. Smith shared, “Bruce Selya was more than a brilliant jurist; he was a guiding light, a mentor, and a steadfast friend. His wisdom shaped my understanding of the law, and his kindness enriched all our lives.

Bruce’s influence will endure through the countless clerks he mentored, the lawyers and judges who looked to his opinions for insight, and the generations of legal minds inspired by his scholarship. His wisdom and unwavering dedication to justice will be deeply missed but never forgotten. We extend our deepest condolences to his wife, Cindy and his family.”

Honorable John J. McConnell, Jr.
Chief U.S. District Judge

Honorable Mary S. McElroy
U.S. District Judge

Honorable Melissa R. DuBose
U.S. District Judge

Honorable William E. Smith
U.S. Senior District Judge

Honorable Lincoln D. Almond
U.S. Magistrate Judge

Honorable Patricia A. Sullivan
U.S. Magistrate Judge