



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

Office of the District Court Executive

COLLEEN McMAHON
Chief Judge

EDWARD A. FRIEDLAND
District Court Executive



Hon. Kevin Thomas Duffy
(1933 - 2020)

The Court is saddened to note the passing of Honorable Kevin Thomas Duffy, our former colleague who served this Court for 44 years (1972-2016), making him the third longest serving judge in the Court's 230 history. A young Kevin Duffy arrived at the federal courthouse at Foley Square 65 years ago as bailiff to Circuit Judge J. Edward Lumbard. He later served as an Assistant United States Attorney in this the SDNY and Regional Administrator for the SEC. He will be remembered for his acts of kindness and compassion towards others around him and for his smile and wry sense of humor. For his work on terrorism cases, Judge Duffy and his wife were under United States Marshal protection for 10 years.

Judge Duffy presided over difficult and important trials, including the following:

- Two trials of those involved in the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center, a terrorist act that resulted in 6 deaths and more than a thousand injured. The first trial last six months and the second three months. All tried defendants were convicted and the principal defendants received sentences of 140 years each.
- The three-month Bojinka Plot trial in which defendant Ramzi Yousef was tried and convicted of conspiring to hijack and fly 12 US-bound planes on a coordinated schedule into the Pacific Ocean. For his work on terrorism cases, Judge Duffy and his wife Irene were under USMS protection for 10 years. Speaking of his work in two terrorism trials the Circuit wrote as follows: “Judge Duffy carefully, impartially, and commendably conducted the two lengthy and extraordinarily complex trials from which these appeals were taken. The fairness of the proceedings over which he presided is beyond doubt.” *United States v. Yousef*, 327 F.3d 56, 173 (2d Cir. 2003).
- Five-and-a-half-month trial against 9 members of the Gambino Crime Family, including boss Paul Castellano. Two and a half months into the trial, on December 16, 1985, at approximately 5:30 p.m., Castellano and his driver were shot and killed in front of Sparks Steak House. After extensive questioning of the jurors, Judge Duffy continued the trial. Six of the remaining defendants were convicted and the convictions of all six on the principal counts were affirmed on appeal.
- The Brinks Robbery Conspiracy trial: Two police officers and a private security guard were murdered in Nanuet, NY in the course of the robbery organized by members of the May 19th Communist Organization, the Black Liberation Army and the Weather Underground. The trial last five months and there were 129 witnesses.
- Trial of Carmine Tramunti, boss of the Lucchese Crime Family, and 14 others; 6 severed defendants were convicted after a second trial (first trial: 2 months; second trial: 1 month). Original indictment named 32 defendants in 30 counts.