



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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March 5, 2020

Hon. Michael A. Telesca

Today the world lost a champion for justice. United States District Judge Michael A. Telesca understood that the courts were a vehicle for citizens to receive a prompt and fair disposition of their disputes. His motto was "Dignity in and Dignity Out," meaning that all litigants needed to be respected throughout the proceedings.

He often stated that we as judges were not here to write for the ages, rather it was more important that we reach a decision. Patience was not one of his virtues; he expected everything to happen yesterday. However, it was this determination that allowed him to expect and achieve immediate results. The settlement in the Attica proceedings was just one example of his ability to bring parties together. He was a master in mediating difficult matters.

Never forgetting his roots, Judge Telesca was an individual who was able to communicate with anyone regardless of their status or background.

Judge Telesca cherished his family and friends. He was loyal and reliable. Many people benefited from his willingness to lend a hand when they were most in need. Hundreds of people were recipients of kind gestures from this caring man.

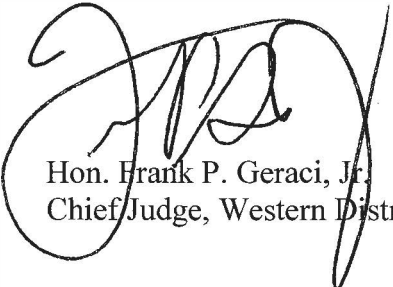
Congresswoman Louise Slaughter once stated, "Judge Telesca sleeps with the constitution under his pillow, clearly understanding the responsibilities of the judicial position he holds."

Judge Telesca set the bar high for all who may follow in his footsteps. His intelligence and caring nature were the perfect combination of attributes that made him an outstanding judge and a wonderful human being.

He is sure to be remembered for his many kind acts. The legacy he leaves behind will serve as a model for all those providing justice in the future, assuring that everyone will be treated with dignity and respect.

Judge Michael A. Telesca will be sorely missed. The heart he displayed and the spirit he demonstrated will live on for generations.

Judge Telesca, on behalf of the scores of individuals who were fortunate to be part of your life, thanks for all you did.



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