

THE HELLENIC VOICE

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Retired federal judge to be honored

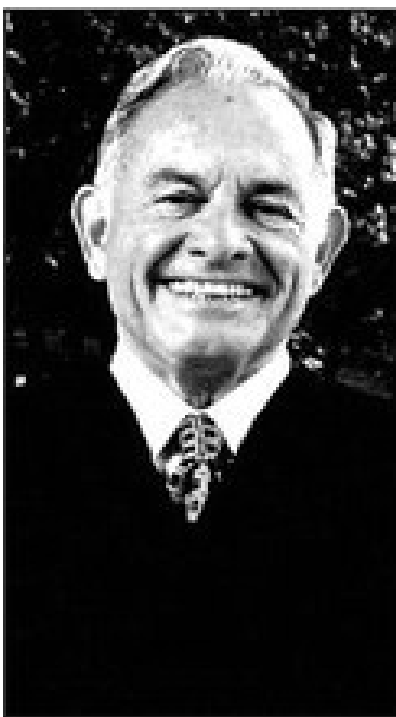
JEFFERSON, Ohio – Retired federal Judge Thomas D. Lambros will be honored October 8 at a dinner sponsored by the Law Foundation of Ashtabula County.

Judge William S. Sessions, who served as the FBI director from 1987-1993, will be the event's guest speaker.

Judge Lambros is the first of several judges and lawyers to be recognized by the foundation as a prelude to Ashtabula County's Bicentennial in 2011.

The son of immigrants Demetrios and Panagoula Lambros, Lambros is a graduate of Cleveland-Marshall Law School and in 1952, at the age of 22, became the youngest person to pass the Ohio Bar examination.

In 1960 at the age of 30, Judge Lambros was elected to serve on the Ashtabula County Court of Common Pleas. In this capacity he instituted a mandatory domestic relations conciliation program and established a voluntary public defender program in Ashtabula County which provided indigent criminal defendants with free counsel.



***Federal Judge
Thomas D. Lambros***

He was appointed by President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1967 to serve as a judge on the federal court. Following his confirmation by the US Senate, Lambros became the first Greek American to serve as a federal judge. On January 16, 1990, he was sworn in as the chief judge of the US District Court for the Northern District Court of Ohio.

Lambros is best known for creating dispute resolution

systems that often avoided lengthy and expensive trials. His best known method is the "Summary Jury Trial" which he developed in 1980.

Under this procedure, attorneys argue a case before a jury without extracting lengthy testimony from witnesses but by summarizing the facts and claims of the disputed matter. The jury then issues an opinion of the case, which is not binding but which is used by attorneys as a guide to an out-of-court settlement of the dispute.

Summary jury trials were quickly recognized as an effective way of promoting justice quickly and were endorsed by the Judicial Conference of the United States in 1984.

Judge Lambros was commended for the concept by former US Supreme Court Chief Justice Warren E. Burger in 1983, 1984 and 1985. Judge Lambros also was the recipient of the award for the Most Outstanding Achievement in Alternative Dispute Resolutions for 1983, presented by The Center for Public Resources.

Lambros served on the federal

bench from 1967 until his retirement in 1995 and was one of the three most senior federal trial judges in the country.

During that time, he was instrumental in the creation of a multi-million dollar settlement in an anti-trust case charging major supermarket chains in Ohio with price fixing. The settlement resulted in the grocery chains donating more than \$17.5 million to the Cleveland Food Bank. He also negotiated the settlement in the 1970 nationwide air traffic controllers strike and handled the case involving the air disaster at New York's LaGuardia Airport on March 22, 1992.

On April 30, 1996, President Bill Clinton signed Public Law 10413 which named the newly

constructed federal building and US courthouse in Youngstown, Ohio, The Thomas D. Lambros Federal Courthouse and United States Courthouse.

After retiring from the bench, Lambros founded FedNet Inc. in 1988. The firm is comprised of 25 retired judges offering mediation services for national or international disputes. Sessions is one of the judges who joined FedNet.

The dinner honoring Lambros will be held from 6-10 p.m. October 8 at the Geneva State Park Lodge and Convention Center in Geneva-on-the-Lake.

Following the formal program, Lambros and Sessions will participate in an informal discussion with audience members.

For tickets or more information, please contact the Ashtabula County Bar Association at (440) 415-4503.



Thomas D. Lambros Federal Building and US Courthouse in Youngstown, Ohio

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