

bers' needs and to be responsive to increased competition for our members' time and money. She recognizes the strong need to continue to engage the younger members of the Council and to use social media in that process. Figuring out how to do that and what will work will take time, energy, creativity, and a healthy dose of experimentation. In that process, she hopes that the Federal Bar Council will remain committed to the personal, social human interactions that always have characterized its events. In Jeanette's words, "Technology can increase participation from afar, but the value of staying close should not be lost."

### Hawaii!

As Jeanette prepares for the future, her path is taking another exciting turn. After her last day on April 30, 2014, Jeanette and her husband of 23 years took a cruise in the Caribbean, and she and her husband will move on to a new adventure in Honolulu, Hawaii. Honolulu offers some of the attraction of a new culture that she recalls fondly from her days in Asia, while also providing the comfort and familiarity of the States. Having spent a good deal of time in Hawaii as part of her work with the Council, she grew to love it and is looking forward to making a life there. She does not yet know what work she will do, but has confidence that she will find

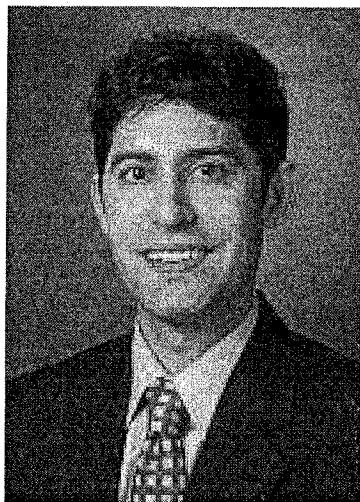
work there as meaningful and as important as the work she has done for the Council.

As to her successor, Jeanette believes that a new executive director, with a fresh outlook and new ideas, will be very positive for the organization. She has no doubt that her "amazing" staff, who are "full of energy" and "passionate about the quality of their work," will create a smooth transition into the future.

### In The Courts

## Speaking with Judge Frank Paul Geraci, Jr.

By Brian M. Feldman



Just two items grace the walls of the chambers of the Honorable Frank Paul Geraci, Jr., in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of New York. On the wall to the judge's left hang his appoint-

ment papers. They reflect his nomination to the bench on May 12, 2012, by President Barack Obama, and his confirmation by the U.S. Senate on December 13, 2012. On the wall to the judge's right hangs an iconic photograph of the Kennedy brothers.

Judge Geraci was raised in Rochester, without any brothers of his own, but with four sisters. The judge and his sisters went to Catholic school. Their mother was feisty; their father, strict. Judge Geraci's father was in the hospitality business, as the manager of hotels in the Rochester area. He often worked from late morning until the early morning of the next day. The highlight of his career was when John F. Kennedy dined at his hotel in Rochester, and Judge Geraci's father personally attended to him. One knew better than to insult the Kennedys in the Geraci home.

Judge Geraci's father imparted to his son a fidelity to the Kennedys and a strong work ethic. Both can be seen in chambers. The Kennedy photograph, of course, hangs on the wall. Judge Geraci's work ethic is apparent from the long hours he has logged in his chambers since his appointment. At that time, his seat on the district court had been vacant for nearly four years. The judge has focused on clearing out the backlog of cases he inherited. In a single year, he held 10 jury trials, including nine civil trials.

## Judicial and Government Experience

The judge came to the federal bench with the judicial experience needed to serve the bar and community and bring the court's docket current. Senator Schumer explained that, "rarely – if ever – have I encountered a candidate who so perfectly combines judicial experience, judicious temperament, and complete dedication to his community as Judge Geraci." Prior to joining the district court, Judge Geraci served for six years as a Rochester City Court Judge and 13 years as a Monroe County Court Judge, as an acting Supreme Court Justice for seven of those years.

Beyond his substantial judicial experience, Judge Geraci has practiced in both the public and private sectors. His career began as a prosecutor in the Monroe County District Attorney's Office. Following five years in that office, he became an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Office of the U.S. Attorney for the Western District of New York. As an AUSA, Judge Geraci handled a mix of civil and criminal cases. Judge Geraci thus gained firsthand experience litigating civil and criminal cases and appearing before state and federal judges.

## Geraci & Feldman

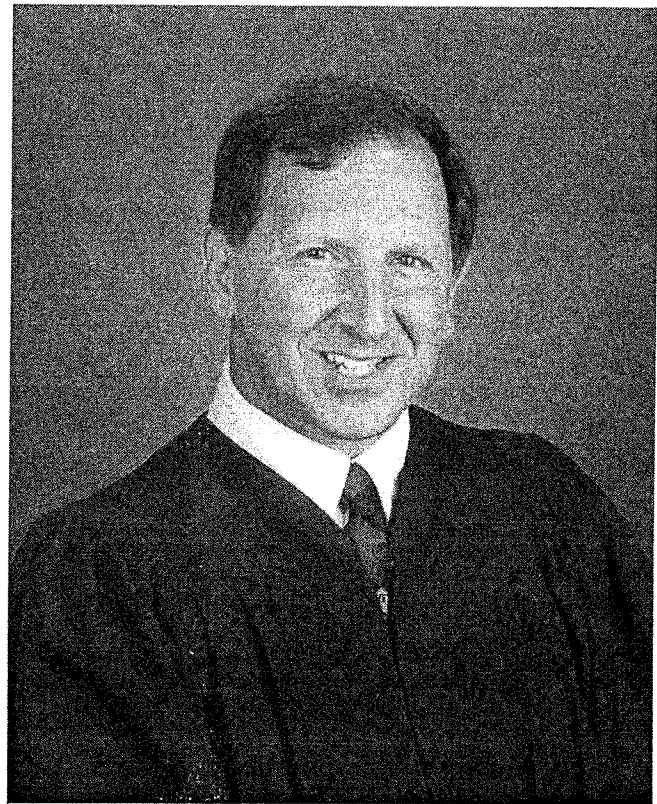
Judge Geraci left the U.S. Attorney's Office to hang out his own shingle. His practice really

**Judge Geraci's work ethic is apparent from the long hours he has logged in his chambers since his appointment. In a single year, he held 10 jury trials, including nine civil trials.**

did start from scratch, as he had no clients to follow him to private practice from his career in government. What he could bring with him, however, was what he considered most important: his new partner, with whom he had served in the U.S. Attorney's Office, now-Magistrate Judge Jonathan W. Feldman (no relation). Judge Geraci and Judge Feldman opened their firm, Geraci & Feldman, in 1987, operating out of a series of

motel rooms. From those humble beginnings, their firm grew into a success. Both partners loved the experience.

At Geraci & Feldman, Judge Geraci was an early proponent of alternative dispute resolution. He found that mediating cases helped him understand the psychology of disputes, and proved vital – then and now – in teaching him techniques for bringing parties together to settle cases. Judge Geraci believes every attorney should be taught mediation, and that the experience has particularly important lessons for litigators trying to resolve cases in the best interests of their clients.



Judge Frank Paul Geraci, Jr.

### Appearing Before Judge Geraci

Another tip Judge Geraci offers is that lawyers appearing in his courtroom will face a hot bench. The judge reminds litigants that he is fully prepared and has no need for a recitation of facts. Lawyers should also be prepared for requests for additional briefing, which Judge Geraci will make when he believes additional briefing would assist him in resolving an issue. Although the judge understands the nature of private practice, including the stress on lawyers juggling matters, worrying about their cases, and dealing with difficult clients, he is unlikely to provide long adjournments or extensions, even when requests are made on consent. Based on his experience, the judge believes that deadlines are often vital in helping parties focus and resolve cases.

The judge enjoys what he considers the excellent level of lawyering among the federal bar in the Western District of New York. He believes that pro bono assignments are important for the court and for otherwise pro se litigants, and he commends the bar for accepting those assignments when requested.

### A Superb Addition

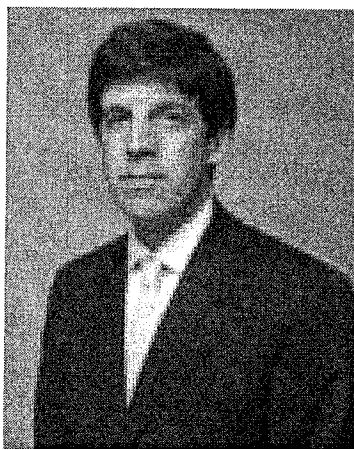
For members of the bar, Judge Geraci is a superb addition to the U.S. District Court for the Western District of New

York. He brings with him a rich background, replete with judicial, public service, and private practice experiences, in both state and federal courts. Those experiences provide the judge with the ability to appreciate a wide range of perspectives. They also provide him with a keen sense of fairness in criminal sentencing matters, based on his familiarity and facility with the different sentencing practices in federal court compared to state court. Federal practitioners are extremely fortunate to have such a well-rounded and dedicated judge on the bench.

### The Interview

## U.S. Attorney Loretta E. Lynch

By James L. Bernard



Soon after one of the many snowstorms we suffered this past brutally cold winter, Steve Edwards and I sat down for a warm

chat with Loretta E. Lynch at the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Eastern District of New York (which was open and ready for business despite the weather). Loretta Lynch has had an exciting and dynamic legal career. After graduating from Harvard for both her undergraduate and law degrees, she worked at Cahill, Gordon & Reindel, and then joined the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Eastern District of New York, eventually rising to become U.S. Attorney from 1999 to 2001. She then became a partner at Hogan & Hartson, where she remained until May 2010, when she was confirmed by the Senate to once again become the U.S. Attorney. While at Hogan, she also served as Special Counsel for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, and helped investigate allegations of witness tampering and perjury.

**Question:** It seems the business of prosecuting and judging is more in the public eye than it ever has been. What do you think when you read blogs and other postings about the activity of this office or other prosecutors?

**Loretta Lynch:** In general, it is a good thing to have more information out there, to inform the public about what we do and to get the public active in these issues, but it can be a challenge to get things right. People outside the system looking in often do not have the benefit of the data and analysis that goes into certain decisions.