

About the Author

Terence F. MacCarthy has been the executive director of the Federal Defender Program in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois for more than 40 years. He was selected for the position in 1966 by the judges of the District Court and the deans of the six Chicago law schools. The office is frequently mentioned as being one of the best defender offices in the country. In addition to his administrative responsibilities, Mr. MacCarthy continues to personally try cases and to train and assist his staff of 20 attorneys.

Mr. MacCarthy received a B.A. in philosophy from St. Joseph's College in 1955 and a J.D. from DePaul Law School in 1960. He was a law clerk to former Chief Judge William J. Campbell of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois and served as Illinois Special Assistant Attorney General, specializing in civil trials and appeals. His criminal experience is primarily in the federal courts, where he has tried and appealed many cases. He has argued before the U.S. Supreme Court. He is a sought-after speaker at continuing education programs, and has lectured in all 50 states and more than a dozen foreign countries.

Mr. MacCarthy has received numerous awards, including special awards from both his undergraduate college and his law school. He received the University of Virginia School of Law William J. Brennan, Jr. Award, the Harrison Tweed Special Merit Award from the ABA, and the Reginald Heber Smith Award from the National Legal Aid & Defender Association. In 2000 he received the "Defender of the Century" from the Federal Defenders Association and the Inns of Court Professionalism Award for the Seventh Circuit.

A member of the ABA for more than 30 years, Mr. MacCarthy has chaired the Criminal Justice Section and served on its council for more than 20 years, including seven as section representative in the House of Delegates. He served on the Board of Governors from 1997 to 2000.