

FREDERICK HERTZ, 69, EX-BANKRUPTCY JUDGE

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Judge Frederick J. Hertz, 69, a [polio](#) victim who could not use his arms and legs since contracting the illness in 1952, served nevertheless for 13 years as a U.S. Bankruptcy Court judge as well as a lawyer before and after his term on the bench.

Services for Judge Hertz, a resident of the Loop area, will be held at 10 a.m. Monday in Chicago Sinai Congregation, 5350 South Shore Dr. He died Wednesday in Northwestern Memorial Hospital after a long illness attributed to complications from polio.

"He was a remarkable man," said William Brandt, a friend. "He was always cheerful and always had a smile on his face. He did a commendable job as a bankruptcy judge. He was a very, very sharp man."

Judge Hertz was confined to a wheelchair. He could not stand or lift a book. He had special attachments on his hands that allowed him to feed himself.

To function in court, he needed assistants to help him study documents and handle matters in the courtroom. He utilized a series of law school students and graduates who now represent an illustrious list of Chicago lawyers, many partners in prestigious firms.

Judge Hertz, a native of St. Paul, Minn., graduated from the [University of Wisconsin](#) Law School in 1941. In World War II, he served in the Army in the Judge Advocate's office. He had a law practice on LaSalle Street and contracted polio in the epidemic of 1952, shortly before the Salk Vaccine was developed.

He spent one year in an iron lung in Warm Springs, Ga., and then returned to his practice confined to a wheelchair. He was appointed a bankruptcy judge in 1975 and retired from the bench in 1988. At the time of his death, he worked at the law firm of Arnstein & Lehr.

Judge Hertz served on the bankruptcy committee of the Chicago Bar Association. He was honored by the bar association in 1988.

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He is survived by his wife, Louise; a son, John; four stepsons Henry Kahn, James Kahn, Charles Kahn Jr. and William Kahn; five grandchildren; and a brother.

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