



**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
**FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN**  
*Office of the Court Administrator*

**KINIKIA D. ESSIX**  
Court Administrator  
Clerk of Court

July 29, 2025

**NEWS RELEASE**

**United States District Judge Stephen J. Murphy, III  
Is Elevated to Chief Judge**

On Monday, July 28, 2025, Judge Stephen J. Murphy, III became the Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan. He succeeded now former Chief Judge Sean F. Cox, whose retirement from the bench went into effect on the same day.

Chief Judge Murphy joined the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan on August 18, 2008. Prior to his appointment to the bench, he served the Eastern District of Michigan as United States Attorney, worked as an in-house counsel for General Motors, and spent more than 12 years as a lawyer both in Washington D.C. and in Detroit for the United States Department of Justice.

Chief Judge Murphy graduated from the St. Louis University School of Law in 1987 and has a history of legal achievement, community involvement, and participation in various leadership positions. He was appointed by Chief Justice John Roberts to serve as a member of the Advisory Committee on United States Appellate Rules for the Judicial Conference of the United States and he presently serves as Chairman of the Judicial Conference's Committee on Intercircuit Assignments.

Chief Judge Murphy has served as a visiting judge on many federal district and circuit courts and has taught classes at several Michigan and Ohio law schools. He has served as chairman of his court's Security Committee since 2016 and has presided over thousands of civil and criminal cases in Detroit.

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