BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

HONORABLE WALTER H. RICE
JUDGE, UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO

Judge Rice was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He is a graduate of Northwestern University, receiving a B.A. degree in 1958. He attended the Columbia University School of Law and received a Juris Doctorate degree in 1962. He also attended the Columbia University Graduate School of Business Administration and received a Master of Business Administration in 1962. He received an Honorary Degree, Doctor of Laws, from the University of Dayton, in 1991 and an Honorary Degree, Doctor of Humane Letters, from Wright State University in 2000. In 2014, he was the recipient of the Thomas J. Moyer Award for Judicial Excellence, given annually by the Ohio State Bar Association, to the member of the judiciary who best exemplifies the ideals and accomplishments of the late Chief Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court. In 2019, Judge Rice was the recipient of the *Brother Raymond L. Fitz Award* for support of children and families. In 2023, he received the John E. Moore Sr. *Champion for Youth* Award. In 2026, Judge Rice received the Downtown Rotary *Irv Bieser Peace Award* and was inducted into the Inaugural Class of the NAACP Civil Rights Hall of Fame.

Judge Rice began his law career as an Assistant County Prosecutor for Montgomery County, Ohio, in 1964. He left that position in June 1966 and became an associate with the law firm of Gallon & Miller. In June 1969, Judge Rice returned to the Montgomery County Prosecutor's Office as its First Assistant Prosecuting Attorney. He was elected Judge of the Dayton Municipal Court in November 1969, and served in that position until

July 1971, when he was appointed Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, Montgomery County, Ohio. He was re-elected to the Court of Common Pleas in 1972 and in 1978. On June 4, 1980, Judge Rice was sworn in as Judge of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Ohio, at Dayton, having been appointed to that position by President Carter. Judge Rice served as Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Ohio from October 13, 1996, to October 12, 2003. In 2019, the Federal Building and United States Courthouse in downtown Dayton was named in honor of Judge Rice.

Judge Rice is a founding member of The Dayton Dialogue on Race Relations, a group sponsoring interracial dialogues in the greater Dayton community; previous Board Chair of the American Veterans Heritage Center and now Vice-Chair, an organization supporting the Administration at the Dayton VA in preserving historic buildings on the Campus and assisting the Administration of the Campus in any way feasible; Co-chair of the Montgomery County Reentry Council, the governing body of the Montgomery County Office of Reentry, assisting citizens returning from prison to successfully reintegrate into the community; Co-chair of the Paul Laurence Dunbar Statue Committee, raising funds for the creation of a life-sized statue on the plaza of the West Branch of the Dayton Library, honoring Dayton's and the world's late 19th and early 20th century literary giant; former Chair of the Board of the Mentoring Collaborative, and a Board Member of Children's Historical Publishing, Dayton Urban Young Life, The Dream Center and the Wright Image Group.