



# Department of Justice

**United States Attorney Steven M. Dettelbach  
Northern District of Ohio**

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**WILLIAM J. EDWARDS RECOGNIZED BY ATTORNEY GENERAL  
HOLDER AT ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY**

WASHINGTON — Attorney General Eric Holder recognized 247 department employees for their distinguished public service today at the 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Attorney General Awards Ceremony. 39 other individuals outside of the department also were honored for their work. Held at Constitution Hall, this annual ceremony recognizes both department employees and others for their dedication to carrying out the Department of Justice's mission. This year, William J. Edwards from the Northern District of Ohio was awarded the Mary C. Lawton Lifetime Service Award for his outstanding leadership skills and legal expertise.

"It is my privilege to honor these recipients for their outstanding service and commitment to our country," Attorney General Holder said. "Each of these dedicated servants has carried out the important mission of the Department of Justice and has done so with excellence and distinction. Their varied accomplishments have advanced the interests of justice on behalf of the American people, and I'm proud to call them my colleagues."

"This award recognizes employees such as Bill Edwards," said Steven M. Dettelbach, the recently appointed United States Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio, "who have served at least 20 years in the Department and who have demonstrated high standards of excellence and dedication throughout their careers. It is presented only in exceptional circumstances to individuals of special merit and is not awarded to express general appreciation for tenure alone."

A career prosecutor, Mr. Edwards was appointed in 1973 as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Northern District of Ohio. He served as the First Assistant United States Attorney from 1993 until March 1, 2008 when he assumed the role of United States Attorney under the Vacancy Reform Act. On September 23, 2008, Mr. Edwards was sworn in as the United States Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio by then-Attorney General Michael Mukasey. As the district's chief law enforcement official, Mr. Edwards was responsible for overseeing all federal criminal and civil investigations and cases in the 40 northern-most counties of the state.

Mr. Edwards has also served as Chief of the Criminal Division as well as Senior Litigation Counsel. He began his career in the Department of Justice in 1969 as a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation assigned to Boston and New York City.

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