

LAW BLOG

On cases, trends and personalities in business



SUPREME COURT
The Big Cases: How
the Supreme Court
Ruled



CIVIL LITIGATION
NY Court Strikes
Down
Cyberbullying Law

LAW SCHOOL

CONSTITUTIONAL LAW

SUPREME COURT

LAWYERS & LAW FIRMS

STATE LEGISLATION

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

6:47 pm ET
Jun 13, 2014

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

PREVIOUS
Canadians Have a Right
to Online Anonymity,
Nation's Top Court
Rules

NEXT
Dewey Prosecutors
Punch Back on Zachary
Warren, Former Client
Manager

Judge Rader, Author of Controversial Email to Lawyer, to Resign from Bench

COMMENTS (7)

FEDERAL JUDGES

Email

Print

By ASHBY JONES

Update: The post was updated on June 15 to reflect comments made by Judge Rader in an email to the WSJ.

An embattled federal appeals judge who gave up his leadership position on the court last month in the wake of an ethical controversy involving a lawyer who appeared before him will retire from the bench, according to [a brief statement posted on the court's website](#).

Randall R. Rader, who served as chief judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit in Washington from 2010 until late last month, will leave his current post as judge on June 30, according to the statement.

In an email, Judge Rader explained: "the bottom line is that I was NOT happy after vacating the Chief position and then awoke to realize that I should leave while I am YOUNG and brimming with enthusiasm about the prospects of improving world legal systems. . . . With that in mind, my plan for the future is to TEACH. . . ."

In the past, Judge Rader has taught intellectual property at universities around the world. In his email, he said this would now be his primary pursuit. "In sum," he said, "this is my chance to do what I love and I am going to seize it!"

A spokesman for the court did not respond to an email seeking comment.

Judge Rader's resignation marks a coda to [a situation that erupted last month](#) involving a patent lawyer who argued frequently before the court.

In March, Judge Rader sent a laudatory email to [Edward Reines](#), a patent lawyer at Weil Gotshal & Manges LLP in Silicon Valley. The email described a recent conversation in which another judge purportedly told Judge Rader that Mr. Reines was "IMPRESSIVE in every way." Judge Rader signed the note "Your friend for life, rrr."

Mr. Reines shared the email with a potential client, according to a person familiar with the



—Reuters

FACTIVA®



Professional search for professionals

- Premium news and information from thousands of trusted sources
- Powerful search to power your company and inform your decisions
- Customized alerts to keep you ahead of the competition

» Visit dowjones.com/factiva

DOW JONES

SEARCH LAW BLOG

GO

About Law Blog

The Law Blog covers the legal arena's hot cases, emerging trends and big personalities. It's brought to you by lead writer **Jacob Gershman** with contributions from across The Wall Street Journal's staff. Jacob comes here after more than half a decade covering the bare-knuckle politics of New York State. His inside-the-room reporting left him steeped in legal and regulatory issues that continue to grab headlines.

Follow [@jacobgershman](#) 3,214 followersComment or tip? Write to Jacob.Gershman@wsj.com or

matter. The email, which circulated to other lawyers, raised questions among lawyers in the patent bar because Mr. Reines had appeared before the court—a key venue in U.S. patent law—in prior cases.

Mr. Reines did not immediately respond to a request seeking comment.

In a statement posted the day he stepped down as chief judge, Judge Rader said he regretted sending the email, adding that the email was “a breach of the ethical obligation not to lend the prestige of the judicial office to advance the private interests of others.” He wrote: “I am truly sorry for the lapse and will work diligently to ensure that it does not recur.”

The obligation cited by Judge Rader is included in a written code of conduct that governs U.S. judges. He was replaced as head of the 18-judge, Washington, D.C.-based court by a current judge, Sharon Prost.

Judge Rader, a Nebraska native, was nominated to a seat on the Federal Circuit in 1990 by President George H.W. Bush, and became chief judge in 2010.

— Brent Kendall contributed to this story.

FEDERAL JUDGES

PREVIOUS
Canadians Have a Right to Online
Anonymity, Nation's Top Court Rules

NEXT
Dewey Prosecutors Punch Back on
Zachary Warren, Former Client
Manager

LAW BLOG HOME PAGE

Email Print

SPONSORED RESULTS

- 2014 Crossover SUVs
- Great Stocks To Buy Now
- Dividend Stocks To Buy
- Fixed Income Investments
- 10 Best Mutual Funds
- Big-Data Analytics
- 2014 Luxury Sedans
- Best Investment Funds
- Best CD Rates
- Today's Hot Stocks

Add a Comment

NAME

We welcome thoughtful comments from readers. Please comply with our guidelines. Our blogs do not require the use of your real name.

COMMENT

CLEAR POST

Comments (5 of 7)

[View all Comments »](#)

3:48 pm June 18, 2014

Lastcall wrote:

DA: You are quite right, if close relationship means more than friendship, this could be an understatement.

3:42 am June 18, 2014

DisappointedAdvocate wrote:

Rader appears to be a great judge with bad judgement. I think what is more likely here is that this will turn out to be an understatement not an overstatement — generally where there is smoke there is fire. It is very likely that there is much more here than meets the (public) eye and

lawblog@wsj.com

Follow Law Blog on Twitter

Must Reads

New Law School Courses Take on Robots, Videogames and Piketty-mania

Law Blog surveys some of the more unconventional course offerings making their debut at law schools this fall.



Law Bureau



Joanna Chung
Bureau Chief



Ashby Jones
Deputy Bureau Chief



Jennifer Smith
Reporter



Joe Palazzolo
Reporter

Christopher M. Matthews
Reporter

Charles Levinson
Reporter



Brent Kendall
Reporter



Jess Bravin
Reporter

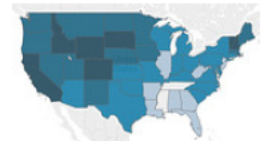
Popular Now

What's This?

- 1 Quackery: In Beijing, A New Museum to Roast Duck



- 2 Breastfeeding: Big in Idaho, Behind in the South



- 3 Here's What the Leaders of Tech Told Graduates in 2014



- 4 Why Some Retirees Need to Take More Investment Risk



- 5 Here Are Four Threats the Internet Faces in the Next Decade



[Show 5 More](#)

Judge Rader is getting ahead of things before the entire story has to be rolled out. The idea that having an inappropriately close relationship with one or more counsel that argue before him and then somehow trying to recuse himself after the fact (a questionable remedy if there ever was one) would make it all go away was poorly conceived. Both the judge and the attorneys involved should have known better than to taint the role of unbiased adjudicator.

3:15 am June 17, 2014

Harold Miles wrote:

This surely is an overstatement of the whole thing!!

10:09 pm June 16, 2014

Jane Doe wrote:

This story is bogus...cover up..

11:21 am June 15, 2014

Lastcall wrote:

It seems an exaggeration this reaction!

Top Law Stories

- French Minister Shrugs Off Concerns Over Banks
- Al Lewis Dissects the Hobby Lobby Ruling
- Brooklyn U.S. Attorney Is a Low-Profile Prosecutor
- High Court Spars on Birth-Control Coverage
- House Attorneys Seek Dismissal Of SEC Suit

Law Blog Categories

Global	3414	International	548
Lawyers & Law Firms	3243	Law & Technology	531
Criminal Law	2060	State Legislation	125
Supreme Court	1479	Regulations	85
Politics	1331	Roundup	67
Constitutional Law	1279	Bankruptcy	64
Judges	1073	Congress	40
Civil Litigation	932	State Law	18
Intellectual Property	755	Autos	9
Law School	640	Courts	6



PARTNER CENTER

An Advertising Feature



Subscribe / Login

Back to Top

Customer Service	Policy	Advertise	Tools & Features	More
Customer Center	Privacy Policy	Advertise	Apps	Why Subscribe
New! Live Help	Cookie Policy	Place a Classified Ad	Emails & Alerts	Register for Free
Contact Us	Data Policy	Sell Your Home	Graphics	Reprints
WSJ Weekend	Copyright Policy	Sell Your Business	Columns	Content Partnerships
Contact Directory	Subscriber Agreement & Terms of Use	Commercial Real Estate Ads	Topics	Conferences
Corrections	Your Ad Choices	Recruitment & Career Ads	Guides	Mobile Site
		Franchising	Portfolio	News Archive
		Advertise Locally	Old Portfolio	Jobs at WSJ