



CHRISTOPHER MILLETTE/Erie Times-News

U.S. Bankruptcy Court Judge Warren W. Bentz, left, talks Monday with Pennsylvania first lady and 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Marjorie O. Rendell at the Bayfront Convention Center. Bentz, 83, is retiring after spending 24 years on the federal bankruptcy court in Erie.

Bentz honored at luncheon

Colleagues, friends and family honored U.S. Bankruptcy Court Judge Warren W. Bentz on Monday with a luncheon marking his service.

Bentz, 83, has spent the last 24 years on the federal bankruptcy court in Erie. He served in private practice locally for 30 years before becoming a federal judge in 1985.

"It's been a very interesting time," Bentz said. "Being a lawyer is one of the most interesting occupations you can have."

One special guest in attendance was Pennsylvania first lady Marjorie O. Rendell, who

is a judge on the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

About 200 people attended the luncheon at the Bayfront Convention Center, which was sponsored by the Erie County Bar Association. A portrait of Bentz was unveiled.

Bentz said he isn't sure what his retirement will hold for him.

Erie's other U.S. Bankruptcy Court judge, Thomas P. Agresti, was named chief U.S. bankruptcy judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania in September. He is now handling many of the cases once assigned to Bentz.