

Chief Judge William F. Downes to retire July 24, 2011

Chief United States District Judge, William F. Downes, has announced that he will retire on July 24, 2011, after 17 years on the federal bench. He has elected not to take senior status.

Chief Judge Downes is one of four district judges serving the District of Wyoming, along with District Judge Alan B. Johnson, District Judge Nancy D. Freudenthal, and Senior Judge Clarence A. Brimmer.

Judge Downes, a 1974 graduate of the University of Houston Law Center, was in private practice as a partner at Clark and Downes in Green River, Wyoming, from 1976-1978, and as an associate and partner at Brown & Drew in Casper, Wyoming, from 1978-1994. He also served in the U.S. Marine Corps on active duty from 1968-1971.

Judge Downes was nominated for appointment on May 5, 1994, by President William J. Clinton, receiving his commission on June 16, 1994. He was elevated to Chief Judge on July 12, 1999, and continues to serve the District of Wyoming as its Chief Judge.