

CITY OF NEW YORK
THE SPECIAL COMMISSIONER OF INVESTIGATION
FOR THE NEW YORK CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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For Immediate Release

In Memoriam
Edward F. Stancik
December 2, 1954-March 12, 2002

The Office of the Special Commissioner of Investigation for the New York City School District mourns the passing today of Special Commissioner Edward F. Stancik. According to medical personnel at the NYU Medical Center where Ed recently had been hospitalized, he died of heart failure. He was 47 years of age and lived in Manhattan.

As Special Commissioner, Ed served as a deputy to the Commissioner of Investigation. Upon learning of his death, DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said: "Ed's death is a tremendous loss. Over the years, he was extremely committed to the City, its children, and its school system. He will be very missed."

Originally from the suburbs of Chicago, Ed graduated from the University of Illinois in 1976 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics. He received his Juris Doctor degree from Columbia University School of Law in 1979. At Columbia, Ed was the Managing Editor of the Law Review and a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar.

His entire legal career was devoted to public service. In 1979, Ed went to work for New York County District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau. Starting out taking street crime and murder cases to trial, Ed moved on to the Homicide Investigation Unit where he successfully prosecuted some of Manhattan's most violent drug gangs. Before leaving the DA's office in 1990 to become Special Commissioner, he was Deputy Chief of the Rackets Bureau. Appointed to the newly created position by Mayor David N. Dinkins, Ed spent the next nearly twelve years working tirelessly on behalf of the City's schoolchildren. Operating independently of the Chancellor and the Board of Education, he tenaciously pursued investigations, searching for those who corrupted the school system, rooting out sexual predators who victimized and exploited innocent students, and those who stole or mismanaged its resources. His work resulted in significant reforms, including changes to the custodial system, the way community school board members are elected and conduct business, the purchasing system, the screening of employees, the treatment of student victims, and the reporting of sexual abuse.

In 1981, he became involved in Big Brothers/Big Sisters of New York and remained an active participant and supporter of the program up to his death. He is survived by his parents Edward and Therese Stancik of Chicago, his Little Brother Peter Laughter of New York City, and his friends and colleagues at the Office of the Special Commissioner.

Funeral services are being held in Chicago. A memorial service will be held in New York City in the near future. Details will be released publicly.