



NEWS RELEASE

Arizona Supreme Court - Administrative Office of the Courts

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Arizona Judiciary Mourns Loss of Retired Chief Justice Charles Jones

PHOENIX – The Arizona Judicial Branch sends its condolences to the family of retired Arizona Supreme Court Chief Justice Charles “Bud” Jones. Former Justice Jones passed away on Thursday morning, December 20, 2018 surrounded by his family. Justice Jones is survived by his wife of 60 years, Ann, their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Justice Jones was appointed to the supreme court by Governor Fife Symington in 1996. He served as an associate justice from 1996 to 1997, as Vice Chief Justice from 1997 to 2002, and as the Chief Justice from 2002 until his retirement in 2005.

Former Arizona Supreme Court Chief Justice Ruth McGregor served on the court with Justice Jones, stating, “Justice Jones was a wonderful judge and colleague and an even better person. As a judge, his commitment was to the rule of law and assuring that the courts did everything possible to make justice accessible to all. As Chief Justice, he oversaw programs designed to make the courts work better for everyone. As a friend, he was always available to listen and, when appropriate, give advice. His love for his family, his extended group of friends, and the justice system cannot easily be duplicated. We will miss him.”

Current Associate Justice John R. Lopez IV clerked for Justice Jones. “I was honored to have clerked for Justice Jones. He was an exceptional mentor and the embodiment of civility, dignity, and grace. To have served with him was a great blessing. I will miss him.”

Justice Jones was born on June 12, 1935. He was a resident of California and Arizona, and served numerous mission trips during his life, both domestic and abroad, with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, where he also held leadership positions.

Justice Jones earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Brigham Young University, where he was in the honors societies of Blue Key and Pi Sigma Alpha. Justice Jones earned his law degree from Stanford University and clerked for the Honorable Richard H. Chambers, Chief Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. He was admitted to the State Bar of Arizona in 1964, and joined the law firm of Jennings, Strouss & Salmon, where he worked in the law firm's labor and employment department, ultimately serving as its chair.

Justice Jones served in numerous judicial, legal, and community organizations, including: the Conference of Chief Justices, the National Committee on Public Trust and Confidence in the Judiciary, the Committee on Federal-State Jurisdiction of the Judicial Conference of the United States, the Judicial Conference of the Ninth Circuit, the Brigham Young University Law School Board of Visitors, the J. Reuben Clark Law Society (BYU), and the Maricopa County Bar Association. Justice Jones was also a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation, the College of Labor and Employment Lawyers, and the Arizona Bar Foundation.

Among Justice Jones's honors were the Distinguished Service Award from Brigham Young University and being named the first recipient of the University of Arizona's 'Feuerstein Award' for Ethics in the Law of Industrial Relations.

Services will be held January 3 at 11:00 a.m., at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, located at 4225 N. 56th St. in Phoenix.

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