

NEWS RELEASE

Arizona Supreme Court
Administrative Office of the Courts



Contact: Aaron Nash
Phone: 602-452-3656
Email: anash@courts.az.gov

July 25, 2019

Arizona Judiciary Mourns Loss of Retired Justice James Moeller

PHOENIX – The Arizona Judicial Branch shares its condolences with the family of retired Arizona Supreme Court Justice James Moeller. Former Justice Moeller passed away on July 16, 2019 at the age of 85. Justice Moeller was married to Nancy (Kiely) Moeller for 45 years until Nancy’s passing in 2007. Justice Moeller is survived by their daughters, Amy Jo Moreno and Linda Anne Bottomlee (Michael Kravetz), three grandsons, and six nieces and nephews.

Justice Moeller was appointed to the supreme court by Governor Evan Mecham in 1987 and served until his retirement in 1998, serving as Vice Chief Justice of the Court from 1992 – 1996. Before his appointment to the supreme court, Moeller served for 10 years on the superior court bench in Maricopa County, working in criminal, civil, and special assignment caseloads. After retiring, Justice Moeller extended his impact on Arizona’s courts by serving on the Commission on Appellate Court Appointments and remaining active as an arbitrator.

Former Arizona Supreme Court Chief Justice Stanley Feldman served on the court with Justice Moeller, stating, “Justice Moeller was a great lawyer and an excellent judge. He brought to every case an open mind, independence, and a profound knowledge of the law, tempered by common sense and good judgment. He was a fair, unbiased man with an innate sense of justice. On a personal level, he was a man of good humor, open minded, fun to be around, and a wonderful influence on every one of his colleagues.”

Current Maricopa County Superior Court Judge Daniel Martin clerked for Justice Moeller. “He was a great lawyer, a gifted judge, and a warm and supportive mentor. We will all miss him very much.”

Justice Moeller earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Nebraska Wesleyan University and his law degree from George Washington University, where he graduated first in his class. After more than 10 years of private practice with the Phoenix law firm of Lewis and Roca, Moeller established his own law firm in 1970, where he practiced until his appointment to the superior court bench in 1977.

Visitation will be held August 4 at 3:00 p.m. at Messinger Mortuary, located at 7601 E. Indian School Rd. in Scottsdale. A celebration of life and reception will be held August 5 at 5:00 p.m. at the Phoenix Country Club, located at 2901 N. 7th St. in Phoenix.

###