



News Release

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Statement of the New Jersey Supreme Court on the Death of Justice Robert L. Clifford

The New Jersey Judiciary and the legal system of our state mourn the recent loss of retired Justice Robert L. Clifford.

His colleagues described him as a man of elegance and dignity, and one whose love of language was legendary in court lore and evidenced in the opinions he wrote.

Justice Clifford was one of the longest-serving members of the Court, having sat from September 1973 until he reached age 70 in December 1994. Justice Clifford served under three chief justices, Pierre Garvin, Richard J. Hughes and Robert N. Wilentz. He shared the bench with 11 associate justices over the course of his judicial career, including two whose tenures went back to the 1950s.

Before Justice Clifford was nominated by Gov. William Cahill, he served in the governor's cabinet as head of the Department of Banking and Insurance and the former Department of Institutions and Agencies. He was in the private practice of law for more than 20 years before his appointment to the Supreme Court.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Justice Clifford's wife Ruth and to his children and grandchildren.

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