



News Release

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For immediate release:
Aug. 12, 2015

Statement on the Passing of Edward B. McConnell

Edward B. McConnell, former administrative director of New Jersey's Judiciary from 1953 to 1973, has died. He was the second, and longest-serving, administrative director under the 1947 New Jersey Constitution that created the foundation for the state's modern court system. The drafters of the state's constitution named the chief justice as the administrative head of all courts in the state, and called for an administrative director to assist with that responsibility.

McConnell became administrative director just five years after the constitution became effective in 1948 and was operating on a fairly blank slate. Many of today's administrative procedures and processes emanated from what he put into place. On the national front, in 1975 he was the second person ever to be awarded the Warren E. Burger Award for Excellence in Court Administration

"Mr. McConnell was the archetype of an administrative director. Next to Chief Justice Vanderbilt, he was the true architect of the modern New Jersey Judiciary," said current Administrative Director Judge Glenn A. Grant. "He was the nation's first professional state court administrator, a leader who brought management skills and techniques to our judiciary. Every one of us, the six directors since he retired more than 30 years ago, have had his work as a blueprint to manage the administration and progress of the courts."

When he left the New Jersey Judiciary, McConnell took his knowledge and interest in court management to the nation in the form of being a creator of the National Center for State Courts. He is recognized as a founder of judicial administration around the country and globally.

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