



Judge E. Ronald Wright

June 2, 1947 - February 1, 2015

A well-liked judge who was among the most powerful African-American officials in the city government has died, one year after retiring from the bench. Wright was more than just a municipal judge.

He participated in groundbreaking legal cases, served in the army reserve, and represented the likes of Johnson & Johnson, the ABC television network, and the Federal Deposit Insurance Commission (FDIC).

"Judge Wright's tenure as a public servant was defined by his professionalism and dedication to justice," said the man who appointed him, Mayor James Cahill.

"For the past seven years he oversaw the City of New Brunswick's Municipal Court system with a fair and balanced hand and was respected by many of his colleagues," said Cahill. "He was also a good and honest man who I was fortunate enough to call a friend. He will be missed."

Wright was also the Chief Judge in North Brunswick, and also ran courtrooms in Bound Brook and Franklin Township. During the 1970's and 1980's he served as a municipal prosecutor in New Brunswick.

He studied law at Rutgers-Newark and ended up working at the Middlesex County Legal Services Corporation, focusing on law reform and bankruptcy

work.

"He researched and assisted in preparing a brief in a case [State v. DeBonis] that ultimately resulted in indigent defendants being allowed to make time payments in Municipal Courts," according to a write-up by the Middlesex County Bar Association, which honored him with a lifetime achievement award last year.

After leaving the MCLSC, Wright worked as an attorney at the American Broadcasting Company, where his duties including crafting the contracts for Geraldo Rivera and Barbara Walters.

According to the Bar Association, one of his first clients was the Middlesex County Comprehensive Employment and Training Administration (MCCETA).

"MCCETA was able to secure millions of dollars from the Federal Government for many years. These funds were used to operate numerous training programs for unemployed/underemployed individuals and place them in the job market," reads the write-up.

"While working for MCCETA Ron was instrumental in helping to secure these federal funds, one year bringing in over \$29m to the county."

In September 1998, Wright was appointed to the bench in New Brunswick, and by January 2000, North Brunswick hired him as that town's Chief Judge as well. He retired from four different municipal judgeships in January 2014.

"As a municipal court judge in four vicinages since 1998, and in two vicinages as Chief Judge, I have probably heard every conceivable type of dispute/case," reads his profile on LinkedIn.

His law practice was originally on Paterson Street, but the building was sold and demolished to make way for an extension of Kirkpatrick Street, and the new Wellness Plaza building.

After that, Wright relocated his firm, known as "The Wright Firm" to 93 Bayard Street.

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 12. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens
771 Somerset Street
Somerset, NJ 08873
<http://www.fbcsonerset.com>

Service

FEB 12. 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens
771 Somerset Street
Somerset, NJ 08873
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Tribute Wall



“ Judge E. Ronald Wright

September 22, 2022 at 02:41 PM



“ Such a great soul.

Felaciea Parham - April 02, 2015 at 12:40 AM



“ 2Cor1:2-4 Reads: May you have undeserved kindness and peace from God our Father and Lord Jesus Christ. Praise be the God and the Father of our Lord Jesus+ the Father of our tender mercies, and the God of all comforts, who comforts + us in all our trails+ so that we may be able to comfort others +in any sort of trail with the comfort that we receive from God

Francine Pendleton - March 27, 2015 at 09:34 AM



“ It was an honor an pleasure to know you, you will be truly missed

Lorene and family

Lorene Brinson - February 12, 2015 at 10:34 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Judge E. Ronald Wright.



February 11, 2015 at 11:43 AM

JE

“ *John C. Sinuk, Esq. purchased the Deepest Faith for the family of Judge E. Ronald Wright.*



John C. Sinuk, Esq. - February 11, 2015 at 10:49 AM

NS

“ *E. Ronald Wright Judge, friend and confidant. My sincere condolence to your family and intimate friends. There is no one who can take your place. By your good deeds and example you have contributed to the education and goals of young students in New Brunswick. You have been a person admired and respected by your fellow Judges and Attorneys. Your legacy will always be remember by people who have had the privilege to know and respect you. May your memory be eternal. Nicholas J. Stroumtsos JSC (ret)*

Nicholas Stroumtsos - February 10, 2015 at 06:49 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Judge E. Ronald Wright.*



February 10, 2015 at 07:44 AM

GJ

“ Rest easy sir...it was an honor and pleasure to know you



Gene J - February 09, 2015 at 10:24 PM

MD

“ Some teenage boys express themselves best through sports. My friend Ron Wright foreshadowed his success in life through his outstanding performances as the star distance runner on our NBHS track team in the early and mid '60s. His record for the mile still stands at our high school to the best of my knowledge. Like his races on the track, he achieved outstanding efforts throughout his life. He became a lawyer and a judge who demanded respect in court while he was able to maintain his easy going and friendly manner else where. He deserved to live a longer life and I am so sad that it will not be. So long Ron, my friend.

Michael Derer



Michael Derer - February 09, 2015 at 10:34 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Judge E. Ronald Wright.



February 09, 2015 at 09:35 AM

JA

“ *Janeen lit a candle in memory of Judge E. Ronald Wright*



Janeen - February 07, 2015 at 11:01 PM



“ *Ron was a true gentleman and a great friend. May he rest in peace.*
Bob Birga

Bob Birga - February 07, 2015 at 05:19 PM

KC

“ *Keith Crandle lit a candle in memory of Judge E. Ronald Wright*



keith crandle - February 07, 2015 at 05:16 PM

 Cheryl Reese

“ *My Thought's And Prayers Go Out To The Wright Family, Judge Wright Grew Up With My Older Siblings And I Had The Pleasure Of Talking With Him On A Few Occasions And He Was Indeed An Awesome Man And The Judicial System Has Lost A Very Honorable Judge ! Rest In Paradise Your Honor :[*



Cheryl Reese - February 07, 2015 at 04:38 PM

MA

“ Ron was a great guy, a great judge and fully enjoyed life. We will all miss him.

Marty

Marty - February 05, 2015 at 11:20 PM



“ Ron will always be loved and remembered by the Godfrey and Horvath families....so many years spent together...so many cocktails at Maritas...so hard to believe he is gone but well meet again someday. Sending Love and prayers to the family of this great man...a true legend

Danelle Godfrey-Horvath

Danelle Horvath - February 05, 2015 at 08:52 PM

AM

“ I was deeply saddened when I heard about the passing of the dear Judge. He was an extraordinary man. There are many who will deeply mourn his passing as his life was one of caring, compassion and excellence. Rest in peace, you will be missed. With deepest sympathy.



Amy Marder

Amy Marder - February 05, 2015 at 08:11 PM

JM

“ A good judge and a compassionate, caring man. I mourn his passing. Joyce munkacsi JSC, ret.

joyce munkacsi - February 05, 2015 at 07:49 AM

JG

“ My Dear Ron,

We've known each other for practically our entire lives. From our childhood, during our years at NBHS, throughout our careers as attorneys and subsequently as fellow municipal Court Judges, I have cherished our friendship. I am smiling now as I remember you as a skinny freshman who arrived at NBHS in 1962.

Since we became attorneys, I often benefited from your insight and friendship during our professional careers.

Please be assured that, as I regularly checked in with you concerning the well being of your loving mother, I will stay in touch with her to make sure she is well and to share the happy memories I have of you with her. You were and always will be remembered as a kind and compassionate human being.

I will think of you everyday until we meet again. Don't worry about March Madness--as always, I will cover your sessions for you. When we do finally meet again, I will abide by your standing Order and pay for the drinks!

Only with love my friend,

Jerry Gordon

JERRY GORDON - February 04, 2015 at 06:52 PM



*My favorite Judge will be missed. As the first African American Councilwoman in North Brunswick, Ron quickly became my mentor and protector. I could count on him for anything and everything including free lunches and dinners as we often would share together. My favorite Judge (as this was my nickname for him) will forever live in my heart and his words of wisdom will forever live in my mind.
Love Retired VP Councilwoman Rhonda C. Lyles*

Rhonda Upcoming RN - February 06, 2015 at 10:57 AM

TS

Being a lawyer can be a real grind. However, I always looked forward to going to his court room. He was a fair minded judge. He balanced being reasonable to the poor and disenfranchised with enforcing the law. I wish all of the Municipal Court judges had the demeanor that Mr. Wright had. I can honestly say that I have never heard anyone say a bad thing about him. May he rest in peace. Ted Sliwinski, Esq.

Ted Sliwinski - February 10, 2015 at 04:30 PM

JW

Judge Wright was an excellent Judge, with an incredible ability to balance all of the issues in a Courtroom of 300 people with a style that's hard to place into words, stern yet witty, good natured with a grouchy feint, and always incredibly fair to all. He treated everyone with an impressive level of dignity - he raised dignity inside some who seem to have lost it. Off the bench, Ronnie was as warm as a person can be. Of the many times I saw him, what stands out was a day walking on the boardwalk with my family in Pt. Pleasant, and there he was waking with his family, and Ronnie stopped in a way that says, I'm stopping here for a long while to spend some time together. He introduced his various family members proudly, in a measured and respectful way, that spoke of what we so often miss, how important our worthy relationships and the simple moments are, and I introduced my young children. It was a rendezvous made timeless by Ronnie's style, a few minutes that became one of the highlights of the day.

Jay Weinberg - February 11, 2015 at 11:27 AM