

HONORING JUSTICE MAURICE A. HARTNETT III

1927-2009



Portrait of Justice Maurice A. Hartnett, III, hanging in the office of his daughter, Court of Common Pleas Judge Anne Hartnett Reigle, in the Kent County Courthouse in Dover.

The Judiciary honors the late Justice Maurice A. Hartnett III and recognizes with gratitude the many outstanding contributions to the Judicial Branch and the State of Delaware he made during a lifetime of service to the community.

Justice Hartnett was first appointed to the bench in 1976, as a vice chancellor on the Court of Chancery. While on the court, he decided many corporate cases that received national attention. In 1994, he was appointed a justice of the Delaware Supreme Court where he served with distinction until his retirement in 2000.

Prior to his service on the Bench, Justice Hartnett practiced law on The Green in Dover, specializing in business and real estate law. During this time, he also served the Judiciary and the State in a number of capacities, including as Secretary of the Uniform Commercial Code Study Committee (1964), Secretary of the Constitutional Revision Commission (1968-69), Chairman of the Delaware Supreme Court Uniform Rules of Evidence Committee (1977), attorney for the House of Representatives (1959-60), Executive Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau (1961-69), Delaware Code Revisor (1961-72), Merit System Study Commissioner (1966), and Chairman of the State Tax Appeals Board (1973-76).