

APPENDIX

HONORABLE GEORGE D. STOUGHTON 1919–2011

The Honorable George D. Stoughton passed away on June 1, 2011, at the age of ninety-one. He was a longtime resident of West Hartford who served more than thirty-two years in the Connecticut judiciary.

Judge Stoughton was born in New York City on November 27, 1919, and grew up in West Hartford. He graduated in 1938 from Rothesay Collegiate School, Rothesay, New Brunswick, in 1942 from Trinity College, Hartford, Connecticut, and in 1949 from Dalhousie University Law School, Halifax, Nova Scotia. From 1942 to 1946, he served in World War II as a captain in the United States Army, Coast Artillery Corps, in the European Theater. He also served in the Army Officers' Reserve Corps.

Admitted to the Connecticut bar in 1950, Judge Stoughton started his legal career with Pelgrift, Dodd, Blumenfeld & Nair. Thereafter, he served as Hartford Assistant State's Attorney from 1959 to 1969, Hartford Chief Assistant State's Attorney from 1969 to 1975, and Hartford State's Attorney from 1975 to 1979. He was inducted as a fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers in 1973. In 1979, he was appointed a judge of the Superior Court by Governor Ella T. Grasso, a position he held until 1987. During that time period, Judge Stoughton served as Administrative Judge for the Litchfield Judicial District from 1982 to 1983, Administrative Judge for the Waterbury Judicial District from 1983 to 1984, and Administrative Judge for the Hartford-New Britain Judicial District from 1983 to 1987. He also served as a member of the Sentence Review Division of the Superior Court from 1983 to 1987. Judge Stoughton was elevated to the Appellate Court by Governor William A. O'Neill in 1987, and he served on that court until he reached the mandatory retirement age of seventy in 1989. Thereafter, he sat by designation at the Appellate Court and also served as a judge trial referee from 1989 until his death. During his tenure as a judge of the Appellate Court, Judge Stoughton sat on a total of 627 cases, of which he authored 187 majority opinions, one concurring opinion, and four dissenting opinions.

Judge Stoughton was married to Mary Elizabeth Bard (McNulty) for nearly fifty-eight years. They had three children, Rebecca, Judith and Paul.

Following his death, the Honorable Antoinette Dupont, former Chief Judge of the Connecticut Appellate Court, recognized Judge Stoughton for his contributions to that court, stating: “George Stoughton was the quintessence of the ideal judge, temperate, learned and impartial. He was a personification of the often repeated words, ‘Speak softly and carry a big stick.’ His quiet and nonargumentative words and questions during the oral arguments of cases to be decided and at judicial conferences of the panelists discussing these cases, made everyone listen because of his polite and soft-spoken demeanor, but the parties and his fellow panelists were most attentive to what he had to say because his ‘big stick’ was his knowledge of the law and the keenness of his perception of the cases relevant to a decision. He was an important member of the Appellate Court.”

During his lifetime, Judge Stoughton also served on the Chapter of Christ Church Cathedral in Hartford, and was a vestryman of both St. James’ Episcopal Church and St. John’s Episcopal Church in West Hartford. He was a summer communicant of St. James Anglican Church in Hunt’s Point, Nova Scotia. Judge Stoughton was active in the West Hartford Youth Hockey Association from its inception. He was a member of the Hartford Bar Association committee that recommended creation of the Legal Aid Society and was a member of the American Trial Lawyers Association. He belonged to the Hartford Club and Limestone Trout Club, and was a lifetime member of the Mirimachi Salmon Association. In 2007, Judge Stoughton was inducted as a member of The Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of Saint John of Jerusalem. He loved spending summers in the Canadian Maritimes, and he will always be remembered for his kindness, dignity and gentle manner, his quiet wit, and his love of family, friends, and fishing.
