

Chief Justice Michael J. Eagen

1907-1987

Term

January 4, 1960-1980; Chief Justice, February 25, 1977-September 23, 1980

Education

- St. Thomas College (now University of Scranton), B.A., 1927
- Harvard Law School, one year
- Studied law with James Powell

Professional Experience

- Admitted to Lackawanna bar, May 1931; Pennsylvania Superior and Supreme Courts
- District Attorney, Lackawanna County, 1934-1942
- Elected Judge, Court of Common Pleas of Lackawanna County, November 1941; re-elected November 1951
- Judge, Court of Common Pleas of Lackawanna County, January 1942-January 1960
- Elected Justice, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, November 1959; commission, December 10, 1959; swearing-in ceremony, January 2, 1960

Honors and Awards

- Honorary LL.D. degrees: University of Scranton, 1955; Dickinson School of Law, 1977
- Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters, St. Joseph's College 1978
- American Red Cross Award, 1944
- Scranton–Dunmore Community Chest Award for outstanding leadership, 1944
- Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Lackawanna County Award for outstanding community service, 1946
- Golden Deeds Award, Exchange Club of Scranton, 1950
- Lackawanna United Fund Award, 1958, for outstanding leadership in creation of fund distinguished service as president of fund for its first three years
- Honored by Koch-Conley Post No. 121, American Legion, 1959, for services in combating juvenile delinquency and efforts to wipe out pornographic literature and motion pictures
- Knight, Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, conferred by Franci Cardinal Spellman, 1960
- Distinguished Pennsylvanian Award, 1978 Lackawanna County
- Americanism Award, B'nai B'rith Amos Lodge No. 136, 1969
- Main Courtroom in the Lackawanna County Courthouse, Scranton, Pennsylvania named for Justice Eagen, May 4, 2018

Memberships and Associations

- American and Pennsylvania Bar Associations
- American Law Institute
- President, College of Presidential Electors of Pennsylvania, 1940

Publications

- The State of the Judiciary in the Commonwealth. 48 Pa. B. Assn. Q. 339 (1977)
- The State of the Judiciary in the Commonwealth. 49 Pa. B. Assn. Q. 323 (1978)
- Annual Report on the State of the Judiciary. (Annual Survey of Pennsylvania Legal Developments). 50 Pa. B. Assn. Q. 181 (1979)
- State of the Judiciary Message for 1980. 51 Pa. B. Assn. Q. 197 (1980)

Sources

104 Pa. Manual 477 (1978-79 ed.); Michael Eagen, Induction Ceremony, 397 Pa. xxiii; Memorial Ceremony, 520 Pa. cxli; Michael J. Eagen, Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael_J._Eagen.

