

## **Chief Justice Henry X. O'Brien**

1903–1990

### **Term**

January 1962–November 29, 1983; Chief Justice, September 30, 1980–November 29, 1983



### **Education**

- Duquesne University, B.S., 1926
- Duquesne University School of Law, LL.B., 1929

### **Professional Experience**

- Admitted to Allegheny bar, 1929
- Private practice, Marshall, O'Brien and Nevin, 1929-1947
- Solicitor, Elizabeth School District, 1943-1947
- Solicitor, East Pittsburgh School District, 1937-1947
- Legal Advisor to Registrants, Draft Board No. 12
- Member of the Appeal Board, East Liberty Ration Board No. 262.2
- Assistant District Attorney, Allegheny County, 1942
- Faculty, Duquesne University Law School, 1946-1956
- Governor John Duff nominated O'Brien, Judge, Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County, November 12, 1947–December 1949
- Elected Judge, Court of Common Pleas, November 1949, swearing-in ceremony, November 15, 1949
- Judge, Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County, January 1950–January 1962
- Elected Justice, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, November 1961
- Partner, Reed Smith Shaw & McClay, 1983-1990

### **Honors and Awards**

- Honorary LL.D. degrees: Duquesne University, 1956, St. Francis College, 1967
- Man of the Year Award in Law, Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce, 1951
- Disabled American Veterans' citation, 1959
- Duquesne University Law Alumni Award, 1962
- Duquesne University Alumni Award Outstanding Graduate, 1975
- St. Thomas More Society Award, 1976
- Century Club of Duquesne University, One of 100 Outstanding Graduates of its First Century, 1978
- Pennsylvania State Trial Lawyers' Award, 1979
- St. Vincent's College Award in Recognition of Catholic Lay Leadership
- American Irish Foundation Award
- Distinguished Alumni Award, Duquesne University School of Law, 1981
- Memberships and Associations
- American, Pennsylvania, Allegheny County Bar Associations
- American Committee for Irish Studies
- Ancient Order of Hibernians
- Board of Directors, Duquesne University
- Board of Directors, St. Paul's Orphanage
- Board of Trustees, Pittsburgh Boys Club
- Duquesne Society
- Fellow, Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland
- Gaelic Arts Society
- Group for Study of Irish Historic Settlements
- Historical Society of Pennsylvania
- Irish American Cultural Institute

- Irish-Georgian Society
- Knights of Columbus
- Knights of Equity
- Law Club of Pittsburgh University Club
- Member, Board of Directors, Rosalia Foundling and Maternity Hospital
- Member, Board of Directors, The Ellis School
- Member, Boards of Managers, St. Paul's Orphanage
- Philadelphia Arts Alliance
- President, Board of Directors, Mercy Hospital
- President, Board of Pittsburgh Branch of the Association for the Blind
- Rosenbach Foundation, Carnegie Institute
- Seton Hill College
- St. Thomas More Society
- State Advocate, Knights of Columbus
- Thomond Archaeological Society
- Trustee, Western Pennsylvania Muscular Dystrophy Association

#### **Publications**

- The State of the Judiciary in the Commonwealth, 53 Pa. Bar Assn. Q. 164 (1982)

#### **Sources**

105 Pa. Manual 412 (1980-1981 ed., 1981); Induction Ceremony, Henry X. O'Brien, 406 Pa. xxiii; Induction Ceremony, Henry X. O'Brien, CJ, 494 Pa. cxxi; Joel Fishman, Judges of Allegheny County, Fifth Judicial District, Pennsylvania (1788-2008) (2009); Judge Henry X. O'Brien Starts Elective Term, 97 no. 53 P.L.J. 3-4 (December 31 1949); Judge Henry X. O'Brien is Candidate for Nomination to Pennsylvania Supreme Court, 104 no. 8 P.L.J. 3-4 (February 25, 1956); Obituary, 138 no. 4 P.L.J. 19 (April 1990); Obituary, New York Times, at <http://query.nytimes.com/gst/fullpage.html?res:9C0CE7DD123EF932A15751C0A966958260>