

## **Chief Justice Samuel J. Roberts**

1907-1987

### **Term**

January 1963-December 1984; Chief Justice, January 3, 1983-January 1984

### **Education**

- Wharton School of Finance, University of Pennsylvania, B.S., 1928
- University of Pennsylvania School of Law, LL.B., 1931
- Editor, University of Pennsylvania Law Review, 1927-1928

### **Professional Experience**

- Admitted to Erie bar, 1932
- Private Practice, 1931-1952
- Assistant District Attorney, Erie County, 1935-1938
- Referee in Unemployment Compensation cases
- Special Deputy Attorney General, 1939-1952
- Lieutenant Commander in the U.S. Navy, World War II, 1944-1946
- Governor John Fine nominated Roberts, Judge, Orphans' Court of Erie County, March 10, 1952-1953
- Elected, Judge, Orphans' Court of Erie County, December 1953
- President Judge of Orphans' Court, 1954-1963
- Special Master to U.S. Supreme Court
- Elected Justice, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, November 1962
- Senior Judge, Superior Court of Pennsylvania, 1984-1987

### **Honors and Awards**

- Honorary LL.D. degrees: Gannon College (1963), Dickinson School of Law (1966), Villa Maria College (1968), Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (1972), Allegheny College (1983).
- Beta Gamma Sigma
- Order of the Coif

### **Memberships and Associations**

- Service on various boards of community, regional health, welfare, education agencies
- Judges Advisory Committee to the Standing Committee on Professional Ethics, ABA
- Member and Chair (1984-85), Council of the Section on Legal Education and Admission to the Bar of the ABA, 1981-1987
- Special Committee on Delivery of Legal Services, ABA
- Chairman, ABA Section of Criminal Justice Section's Commission on Judicial Function for 1976-77
- ABA Accreditation Committee, 1978-1979
- Numerous advisory committees
- Faculty, New York University's Institute of Judicial Administration Appellate Judges Seminar, 1967-1987
- American Bar Foundation (fellowship Advanced Research Committee)
- Distinguished Professor of Constitutional Democracy at Gannon University, 1984
- Board of Overseers, University of Pittsburgh Law School
- Board of Visitors, University of Pittsburgh Law School
- Board of Trustees, Gannon College and Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine
- President's Council, Villa Maria College
- Executive Boards of American Jewish Committee, National Federation of Temple Brotherhoods, and B'nai B'rith
- Special Master appointed by U.S. Supreme Court in State of South Carolina V. Baker, et. al
- Chairman, Commonwealth of PA Commission on the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution

- Clubs: Kahkwa Country, Erie, University, Aviation, Concordia (Pgh); Franklin Inn (Phila); Erie County Motor (dir.)
- Chairman Judicial Administration Working Group on Asbestos Litigation
- National Conference of Commissioners of Uniform State Laws
- Conference of Chief Justices
- Beta Gamma Sigma Fraternity

### **Publications**

- Expanding Professional Responsibilities in the Field of Criminal Law. 37 Pa. B. Assn. Q. 222 (March 1966)
- The Assault by Quantity Upon Quality—Some Reflections Upon Appellate Judicial Reform. 115 no. 5 Pittsburgh Legal J. 3 (May 1, 1967)
- The Bench, the Law and Public Opinion: Judicial Sense and Nonsense. 116 no. 11 Pittsburgh Legal J. 3 (November 1, 1968)
- Towards a Modern Public Records System, 39 Pa. B.A.Q. 406 (March 1968)
- State Judge Looks at the Federal Courts. 44 Federal Rules Decisions 62 (May 1968), 116 U. Pa. L. Rev. 468 (1968)
- Pennsylvania's Disciplinary Procedures for the Bar. 39 Pa. B. Assn. Q. 484 (1968)
- Judicial Sense and Nonsense. 5 Trial 22 (Feb/Mar 1969)
- Social Crisis and the Lawyer and Law Student. 14 Villanova L. Rev. 377 (1969)
- Environment for Justice: the Law, the Courts, the Bar and the Public. 50 Pa. B. Assn. Q. 63 (1979), 52 Temple L. Q. 1-8 (1979)
- Justice Louis L. Manderino. 18 Duquesne L. Rev. 405 (1980)
- Police Interrogation and Confessions. 57 Notre Dame Lawyer 198 (1981)
- Justice in Pennsylvania: the Roles of the Bench and Bar. (address at Pennsylvania Bar Assn 1981 Annual Meeting, May 1981) (transcript) 52 Pa. B. Assn. Q. 164 (1981)
- The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania: Constitutional Government in Action. (Pennsylvania Supreme Court Review, 1980) 54 Temple L. Q. 403 (1981)
- Bernard G. Segal. (testimonial). 129 U. Pa. L. Rev. 1052 (1981)
- The Adequate and Independent State Ground: Some Practical Considerations. 19 Land and Water L. Rev. 647 (1984)
- Induction of New Chief Justice. 54 Pa. B. Assn. Q. 61 (1983)
- The Judicial Perspective (Disciplinary Board's Tenth Anniversary) 54 Pa. B. Assn. Q. 69 (1983)
- Aldisert, Ruggero J., William H. Erickson, Robert A. Leflar and Samuel J. Roberts. What Makes a Good Appellate Judge: Four Views. 22 Judges J. 15(4) (Spring 1983)
- The Trial Court: Keystone of Justice. Judicial Orientation Seminar, Feb. 25, 1982, Philadelphia, Penn.) (transcript) 53 Pa. B. Assn. Q. 167 (July 1982)
- Samuel J. Roberts Reaffirms Commitment. 6 PA L.J.-Reporter P1. col. 2 (January 10, 1983)
- State of the Judiciary Message for 1983. 131 no. 7 Pittsburgh Legal J. 3 (July 1, 1983)

### **Sources**

96 Pa. Manual 460 (1963-64 ed.); 106 Pa. Manual 418 (1983); Induction Ceremony, Samuel J. Roberts, 409 Pa. xxxvii; Samuel J. Roberts, C.J., 499 Pa. cxlvii; Memorial Ceremony, Samuel J. Roberts, 516 Pa. lv.