

Chief Justice Robert N.C. Nix, Jr.
1928-2003

Term

1972 to 1996; Chief Justice, 1984-July 31, 1996

Education

- Villanova University, B.A., 1950
- University of Pennsylvania School of Law, J.D., 1953
- Temple University, postgraduate business administration and economics

Professional Experience

- U.S. Army, 1953-1955
- Admitted to Philadelphia bar, 1956
- Deputy Attorney General, 1956-1958
- Private Practice, Nix, Rhodes, and Nix, 1958-1968
- Elected, Judge, Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County, November 1967
- Judge, Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County, January 1968-1971
- Elected Justice, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, November 1971; retained November 1981 and November 1991
- Retired on July 31, 1996

Honors and Awards

- Honorary LL.D. degrees from Villanova University (1976), Delaware Law School of Widener College (1980), Chestnut Hill College (1983), Dickinson Law School (1983), Scranton University (1984), LaSalle College (1984), and St. Charles Seminary (1985)
- Guardian Civic League Achievement Award (first Pennsylvanian to be awarded)
- First African-American to become the highest judicial officer of any state
- First African-American Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

Memberships and Associations

- American, National, Pennsylvania, Philadelphia Bar Associations
- Knight Commander of the Order of Saint Gregory issued by The Vatican
- Temple University Hospital Board of Governors
- American Judicature Society
- Barristers Club
- Boards of Trustees at Villanova University, Duquesne University, University of Scranton, Lincoln University, and the University of Pennsylvania Law School
- Fellow of the American Bar Foundation
- President, Pennsylvania Law & Justice Institute
- LaSalle College of President's Associates
- Advisory Board, LaSalle College High School
- Vice President, Philadelphia Fellowship Commission
- Director, Pennsylvania Association for Retarded Children
- USO
- Germantown Boys Club
- Philadelphia More Beautiful Committee
- Advisory Board, St. Joseph's Hospital
- Executive Committee, Youth for Decency
- Cardinal's Committee on the Diocesan School District
- St. Madeleine Sophie Roman Catholic Church
- Listed in Who's Who in America, Who's Who in American Politics, and Who's Who in American Law.
- President-elect of the Conference of Chief Justices in 1990; President, 1991

- Chairman of the Board, National Center for State Courts, 1991
- Knights of Columbus, 4th Degree
- Democratic State Committee, 1958-1967
- Electoral College, 1961 and 1965
- Holy Name Society

Publications

- The Public's View of the Judicial Role. 39 *The Shingle* 57 (1976)
- A Eulogy to the Late Honorable William H. Hastie. 47 *Pa. B. Assn. Q.* 579 (1976)
- The State of the Judiciary in the Commonwealth. 55 *Pa. B. Assn. Q.* 163 (1984)
- The State of the Judiciary in the Commonwealth. 56 *Pa. B. Assn. Q.* 164 (1985)
- Report to the Bar. 57 *Pa. B. Assn. Q.* 149 (1986)
- State of the Judiciary Address to the General Assembly. 58 *Pa. B. Assn. Q.* 142 (1987)
- Report to the Bar. 59 *Pa. B. Assn. Q.* 178 (1988)

Sources

103 *Pa. Manual* 469 (1976-77 ed.); 112 *Pa. Manual* 5-24 (Dec. 1995 ed.); Induction Ceremony, 447 *Pa. Ij*; 229 *The Legal Intelligencer* 1 (Aug. 26, 2003); "Former Chief Justice Robert Nix Jr. Dead at 75." http://kyw.com/Local%20News/local_story_235231129.html (Aug. 23, 2003); "First Black on State's Top Court Dies." <http://www.centredaily.com/mld/centredaily/news/local/6607099.htm> (Aug. 24, 2003); Robert N.C. Nix, Jr. Biography, Biography, <https://biography.jrank.org/pages/2670/Nix-Robert-N-C-Jr.html> 214 *The Legal Intelligencer* 1 (Mar. 8, 1996); Nix Remembered As: Former Chief Justice and First African-American on PA. Supreme Court, Dead at 75; Obituary," *Pa. L. Weekly* 1038 (September 1, 2003); Robert C. Power, Pennsylvania Supreme Court, Chief Justice Nix: He will be Missed. 13 *Widener L.J.* 563 (2004); Symposium: The Pursuit of an Independent Judiciary: The Writings of Chief Justice Nix. 78 *Temple L. Rev.* 327 (2005).