

Chief Justice Ralph J. Cappy

1943-2009

Term

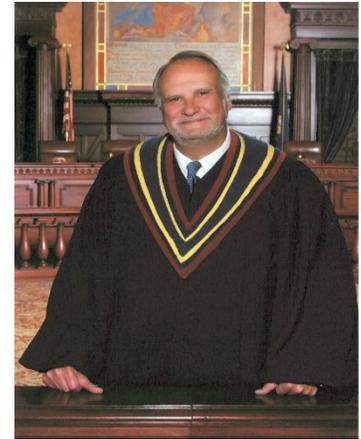
January 1990-January 6, 2008; Chief Justice 2003-January 6, 2008

Education

- University of Pittsburgh, B.S. (honors), 1965
- University of Pittsburgh School of Law, J.D., 1968

Professional Experience

- Admitted to Allegheny County bar, 1968
- Law Clerk, Judge Henry Ellenbogen, Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County, 1968-1970
- Private Practice, 1968-1978
- Lecturer, University of Pittsburgh School of Law, 1970-1972
- Instructor, City of Pittsburgh Training School and Allegheny County Police Academy, 1970-1974
- Trial Defender, First Assistant Homicide Attorney, Deputy Director, Office of the Public Defender of Allegheny County, 1970-1975
- Director, Allegheny County Public Defender's Office, 1975-1978
- Governor Milton Shapp nominated Cappy as Judge, Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County, on June 19, 1978, confirmed by Senate on June 21, 1978, swearing-in ceremony, June 30, 1978-January 1980
- Elected in November 1979 as Judge, Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County, January 1980-January 1990; Administrative Judge, Civil Division, December 10, 1986-January 1990
- Lecturer for Allegheny County, Pennsylvania Bar Associations, Pennsylvania Bar Institute on various legal education programs
- Elected Justice, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, November 1989; retained November 1999
- Liaison to Supreme Court Appellate Procedural Rules Committee, Minor Judiciary of Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Board of Law Examiners, reorganization of the First Judicial District, 1990-1994
- Liaison to the Supreme Court Civil, Domestic Relations and Orphans' Court Procedural Rules Committees, Pennsylvania Board of Law Examiners, 1994
- Liaison to Civil Procedural Rules Committee, Pennsylvania Board of Law Examiners, Pennsylvania Continuing Legal Education Board, Judicial Council, 1996
- Member, U.S. Judicial Conference Committee on Federal-State Jurisdiction, 1996
- Retired on January 6, 2008
- Partner, Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney, 2008-2009



Honors and Awards

- Distinguished Alumni Award, University of Pittsburgh School of Law
- Distinguished Laureate Alumni Award, University of Pittsburgh, 1999
- Citation of Merit, Mothers Against Drunk Driving
- Man of the Year, Pennsylvania State Police
- Man of the Year, Pennsylvania Fraternal Order of Police
- Judicial Award, Pennsylvania Bar Association, 1997
- Gold Medal for Distinguished Service Award, Order of Sons of Italy
- Man of the Year, Sons of Italy
- Golden Medal Award as Man of the Year, Order of Sons of Italy in America
- Man of the Year, Italian Heritage Foundation
- Italian American Man of the Year, Pittsburgh Italian Scholarship Fund
- Philadelphia Bar Association Gold Medal
- Bar Medal, Pennsylvania Bar Association, 20007
- Harry Carrico Award, National Center for State Courts, 2007

Memberships and Associations

- American, Pennsylvania, Allegheny County Bar Associations
- Justinian Society, 1990
- American Judicature Society, 1994
- Fellow, American Bar Foundation, 1996
- Association of Trial Lawyers
- Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges (1978-1990): Legislation and Planning Committees 1978-1983; Judicial Ethics Committee, Pa. Law J. 1981-1983; Conference Ethics Committee, 1981-1983; Education Committee, 1983-1988, Conference Zone Representative, 1984-1985; Chairman, Judicial Ethics Committee, 1985-1988; Conference Treasurer, 1988; Conference Secretary, 1989
- Justinian Society, 1990
- Board of Trustees, University of Pittsburgh, 1992-2009; Chair, Board of Trustees, 1995-2009
- American Judicature Society, 1994
- American Bar Association, 1995
- Fellow, American Bar Foundation, 1996
- First Vice Chair, Board of Directors, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, 1996
- Second Vice Chair, UPMC Shadyside Hospital Board of Directors, 1996
- Member, Board of Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, 1996
- Member, Advisory Board of Cyril H. Wecht Institute of Law & Forensic Science, Duquesne University
- Delta Sigma Phi Fraternity

Publications

- Prologue. (Reducing the Backlog in Philadelphia: Achieving the Unreachable Goal). 68 Pa. Bar Assn. Q. 139 (1997)
- Foreword. The Pennsylvania Constitution: A Treatise on Rights and Liberties (Ken Gormley, Principal ed., 2004)

Sources

104 Pa. Manual 488 (1978-79); 113 Pa. Manual 5-24 (Dec. 1997); 118 Pa. Manual 5-21 (Dec. 2007); PBA Lawyers Directory 945 (2006); Memorial Ceremony, 602 Pa. XLIX; Induction Ceremony, 525 Pa. [CCXIII]; Installation Ceremony Honorable Ralph J. Cappy [Chief Justice], 572 Pa. [CLXII]; Joel Fishman, Judges of Allegheny County, Fifth Judicial District, Pennsylvania (1788-2008) 18 (2009); Sadie Gurman, Obituary: Ralph J. Cappy / Retired Pennsylvania chief justice, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (May 3, 2009), <https://www.post-gazette.com/news/obituaries/2009/05/03/Obituary-Ralph-J-Cappy-Retired-Pennsylvania-chief-justice/stories/200905030148>; A Look Back at the Legacy of Justice Cappy, The Legal Intelligencer (May 4, 2009); Symposium: Honoring Chief Justice Ralph J. Cappy, 47 Duquesne L. Rev. 467 (2009).