

Portrait of Louisiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Pascal F. Calogero, Jr., 2008. *Reproduced with permission of the Louisiana Supreme Court.*

# In Memoriam: Retired Louisiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Pascal F. Calogero, Jr.

**R**etired Louisiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Pascal F. Calogero, Jr., 87, died on Dec. 20, 2018. He was the longest-serving justice in the history of the Louisiana Supreme Court, serving for 36 years from Jan. 10, 1973, to Dec. 31, 2008. He served as chief justice for 18 years, from April 1, 1990, to Dec. 31, 2008.

A native New Orleanian, Chief Justice Calogero attended St. Aloysius High School (now Brother Martin High School) and Loyola University. He earned his law degree from Loyola University Law School in 1954, graduating first in his class and serving as president of the Student Editorial Board of the *Loyola Law Review*. He later received a Master of Laws degree in judicial process from the University of Virginia (1992). He served three years in the U.S. Army, first as a military police officer, then as a JAG in the Judge Advocate General's Corps. He worked as a law clerk at Orleans Parish Civil District Court prior to practicing law from 1958-72 with the law firm of Landrieu, Calogero & Kronlage with lifelong friends Moon Landrieu and Charles A. Kronlage, Jr.

In 1972, Chief Justice Calogero was elected to the Louisiana Supreme Court from the First Supreme Court District, consisting of the parishes of Orleans, Jefferson, St. Bernard and Plaquemines. He was re-elected in 1974, 1988 and 1998. His impact on the Supreme Court was felt immediately when he became the majority vote for opinions that followed the directive of the



Louisiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Pascal F. Calogero, Jr., looking out of the courtroom window, with part of the renovated Louisiana Supreme Court building in the background. *Reproduced with permission of the Louisiana Supreme Court.*

U.S. Supreme Court in the criminal justice field, directives that were being resisted in Louisiana.

During his historic tenure on the Supreme Court, he authored more than 1,000 learned majority opinions, concurrences and dissents, including numerous historic and groundbreaking decisions, and participated in more than 6,000 oral arguments and published opinions. His opinions and writings reflected his intellect, his integrity, his respect for the rule of

law, and his passionate dedication to fairness and justice.

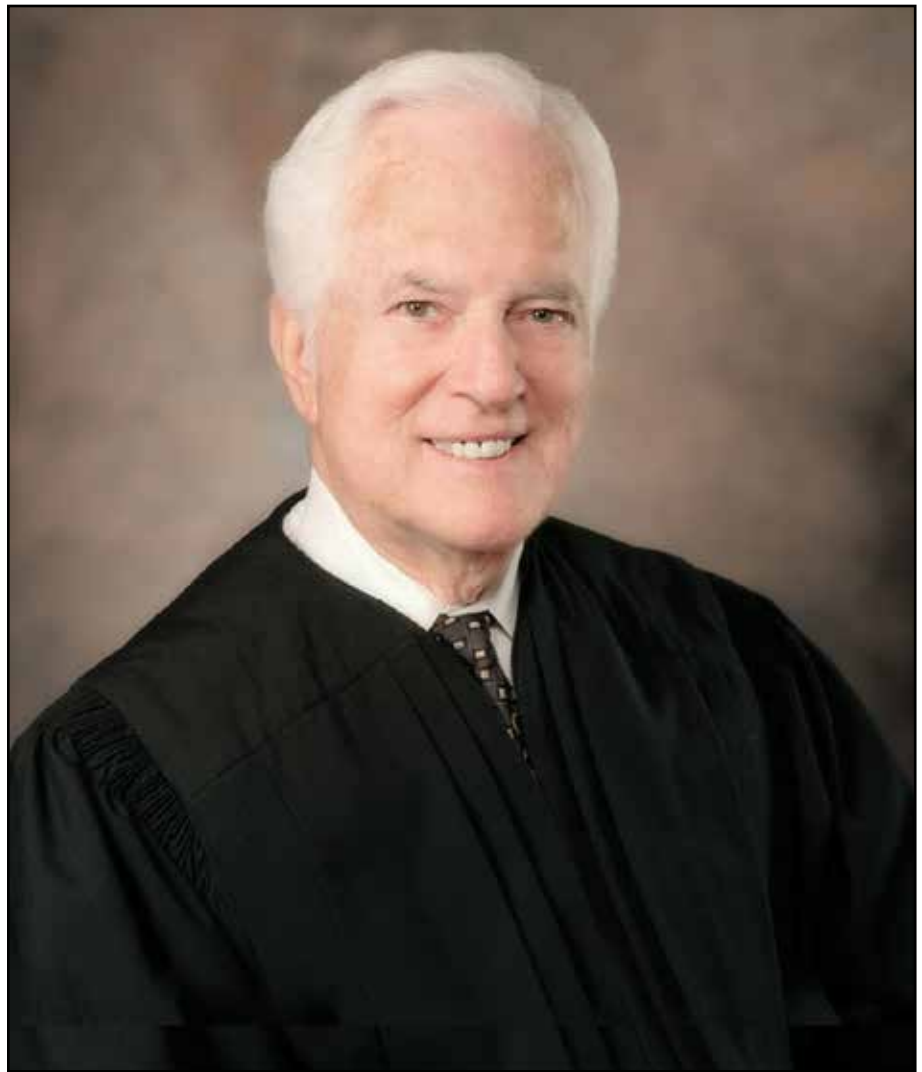
As chief justice, he spearheaded numerous reform initiatives in the area of the law, the legal system and the administration of justice in Louisiana, many of which serve as national models of court improvement. He considered his Court's most important administrative achievements to be completion of the restoration of the Royal Street Courthouse, improvements in Louisiana's indigent defense

system, improvements in both the attorney and judicial disciplinary systems, and the maintenance of a consistently current court docket for 36 years.

Following his retirement from the Louisiana Supreme Court in 2008, he returned to the private practice of law. He opened his own boutique firm focused on appellate practice.

During his illustrious career, Chief Justice Calogero was the recipient of numerous accolades and awards, including the Louisiana Bar Foundation's 1991 Distinguished Jurist Award; an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Loyola University College of Law; induction as an honorary member of Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center's Order of the Coif and Hall of Fame; the Justice Albert Tate, Jr. Award from the Louisiana Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers; and the distinguished Medal of Honor Award from the Mayor of New Orleans. In 2007, the American Judicature Society, a national nonpartisan organization dedicated to the effective administration of justice, awarded Chief Justice Calogero the Dwight D. Opperman Award for Judicial Excellence. He continued to receive honors after his retirement in 2008, including the dedication in his honor of an issue of the *Louisiana Bar Journal* and the Louisiana Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers' Lifetime Achievement Award. The Louisiana Bar Foundation instituted the Calogero Justice Award, presented annually to recognize a significant contribution to the Louisiana justice system. He also received the Integritas Vitae Award, Loyola University's highest honor, presented to individuals who possess a high moral character in a lifetime of service, and the ACLU's Ben Smith Award for his commitment to the advancement of civil liberties in Louisiana.

Upon his retirement in 2008 from the Louisiana Supreme Court, Chief Justice



**Louisiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Pascal F. Calogero, Jr.** *Reproduced with permission of the Louisiana Supreme Court.*

Calogero expressed that he hoped he would be remembered as "an energetic, hard-working, honest and able judge who contributed to maintaining stability in the law and jurisprudence while serving the least privileged of our citizens with compassion, integrity and fairness."

Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson commented, "Today we lost a giant in our legal profession. I served with Justice Calogero for 14 years on the Supreme

Court and, during that time, I developed a deep respect for my colleague's intellect, his integrity, and his dedication to fairness and justice. His contributions to Louisiana law and judicial administration are immeasurable."

Chief Justice Calogero is survived by his wife, Leslie M. Langhettee, 10 children, and many grandchildren, nieces, nephews and extended family.

## **Special Issue on Chief Justice Calogero's Retirement Published in December 2008/January 2009**

On the occasion of Louisiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Pascal F. Calogero, Jr.'s retirement from the Court, a special commemorative issue of the *Louisiana Bar Journal* was published. That issue is available for review online at: [www.lsba.org/goto/JournalDec2008](http://www.lsba.org/goto/JournalDec2008).