

Judicial Conference of the
United States

Memorial Resolution

The Judicial Conference of the United States notes with sadness the death, on September 3, 2005, of the Honorable

William Hubbs Rehnquist

Chief Justice of the United States. A Wisconsin native and an adopted son of Arizona, he was born in Milwaukee in 1924, and he served in the United States Army Air Corps in North Africa in World War II. He was a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Stanford University and received Master of Arts degrees from both Stanford and Harvard University. He graduated first in his class from Stanford Law School in 1952, and served as law clerk to Associate Justice Robert H. Jackson at the Supreme Court of the United States.

Chief Justice Rehnquist entered private practice in Phoenix in 1953, and in 1969 was appointed Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legal Counsel in the Department of Justice. In 1971, President Richard M. Nixon nominated him to serve as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States; he was confirmed by the Senate and took his oath as the 100th Justice in January 1972.

Nominated to serve as Chief Justice by President Ronald Reagan in June of 1986, he became the 16th Chief Justice of the United States on September 26 of that year. In 1999, he became the second Chief Justice in the history of the United States to preside over an impeachment trial of a president of the United States.

The Chief Justice excelled in administering the federal courts. The Chief Justice displayed his leadership in the Judicial Conference of the United States almost immediately by appointing in 1986 a committee of federal judges to study the organization and operations of the Conference, the first such effort in 17 years. He took his role in the Conference structure seriously, and through the establishment of term limits, he significantly expanded the numbers of judges appointed to serve on Conference committees. Chief Justice Rehnquist presided at the semi-annual Judicial Conference sessions for almost two decades with a firm hand. He ran efficient, effective meetings – showing respect for the rules of order and expecting succinctness in presentation, while demonstrating the wit that was his hallmark. His tenure as head of the judicial branch encompassed, among many other things, the Federal Courts Study Committee, the Powell Committee on capital *habeas corpus* remedies, which he established, and the White Commission study on the structural alternatives for the federal appellate courts.

Chief Justice Rehnquist loved history as well as the law, and he was the author of four books. Above all, he was a man of integrity and courtesy, deep humility, and courage.

We mourn the passing of our Chief, a great jurist and good friend, and we express our deepest sympathy to his family, which he loved above all else.

Leonidas Ralph Mechem
Secretary

Carolyn Dineen King
Chairman, Executive Committee

Washington, D.C., September __, 2005