



THE HONORABLE GEORGE H. BARLOW

## IN MEMORIAM

### THE HONORABLE GEORGE H. BARLOW 1921-1979

On March 4, 1979, we lost Chief Judge George Barlow of the District of New Jersey to a sudden heart attack and with him we lost a leader, a fine judge, and a great gentleman. It is not difficult to write in this eulogy the many attributes of this good man; the difficulty, after the shock of his passing, is to try to go steadily along as he, a friend and colleague, would want us to do without him.

One of the most distinguishing features of Judge Barlow's life was his dedication to service to his state, country and to the people. He was born and raised in Trenton, New Jersey, and, after graduating from his beloved Dartmouth College, joined the Navy in World War II and served as an ordinance officer on the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Bennington. After discharge, he attended Rutgers University School of Law, where he was a member of the law review staff. After graduation, he entered the firm of Moore and Moore in Trenton and became Assistant Counsel to the Law Revision and Bill Drafting Commission of the New Jersey Legislature.

In 1953, he was appointed an Assistant United States Attorney for this District and served until 1956 when he resigned and was appointed part-time United States Commissioner (Magistrate) by, then, Chief Judge Philip Forman. At this time he also resumed the practice of law with the firm of Katzenbach, Gildea and Rudner in Trenton.

On January 2, 1963, he was appointed Mercer County Judge by Governor Richard J. Hughes, and then quickly, in 1966, appointed to the Superior Court of New Jersey. There, he served with distinction until January 9, 1970, when he took office as United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey. He became Chief Judge on May 15, 1978, succeeding Judge Lawrence A. Whipple who had taken senior status.

All of the foregoing recitation of the offices he held is a clear indication of his life of public service and his rapid and continuous elevation to higher and more responsible positions, but are only one measure of the man himself. Judge Barlow was devoted to his family. He leaves behind his wife, Jane Thorne Barlow, a son, George H. Barlow III, and his daughters Jane Ellen Barlow Purgavie and Elizabeth Thorne Barlow, presently an Assistant United States Attorney. He had many friends, of course, but those of us fortunate to be

close to him were privileged to be near a brilliant, witty, charming and warm human being.

As a judge, he was a giant—a deft, courteous and firm trial judge, and an intellectual. His opinions reflect his talent and his mastery of the intricacies of the complex legal questions which confront federal courts as a matter of course. It is remarkable that so much has been accomplished in so short a professional life, but those who knew him are not at all surprised.

If this valuable life can be summed up at all it would be that Judge Barlow loved God, his country, his family and his friends and was beloved by all and respected by his colleagues on the bench and at the bar. We know that he is in God's pocket, and we hope that he keeps us in his.

*Clarkson S. Fisher\**

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\* Chief Judge, United States District Court for the District of New Jersey.