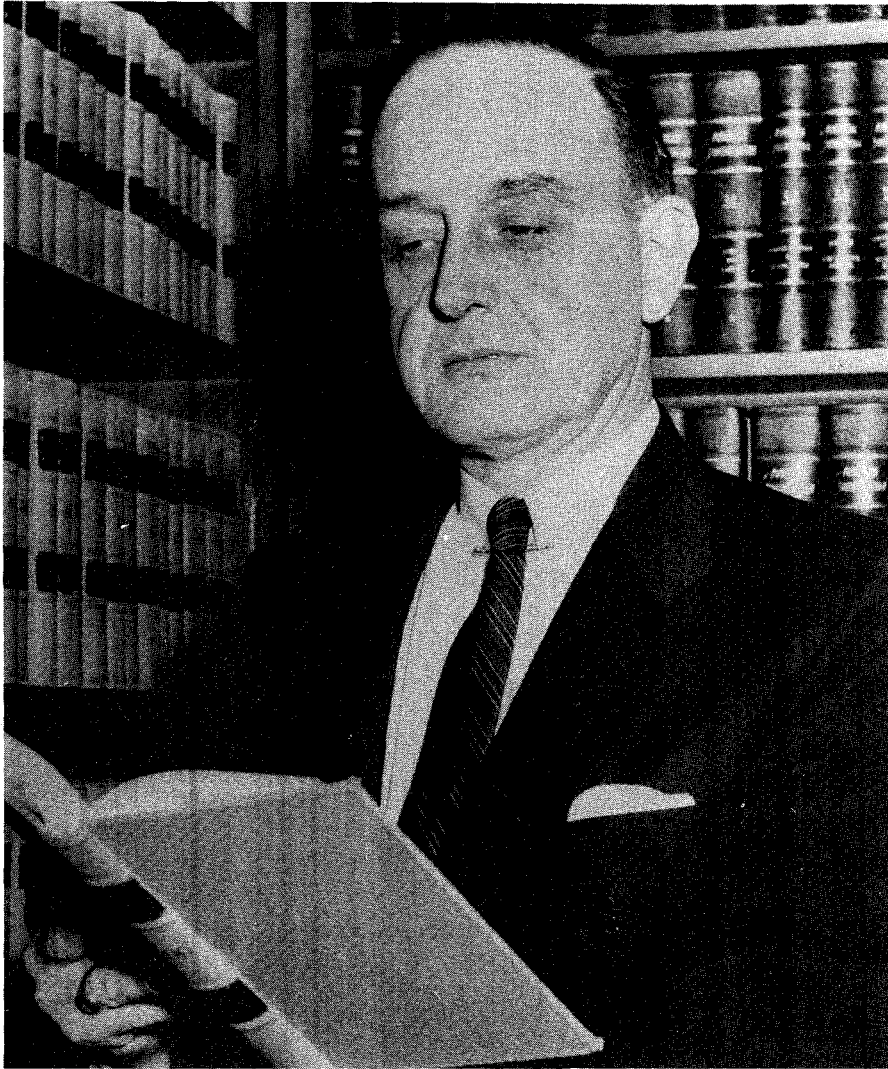




THE HONORABLE JOHN J. FRANCIS



THE HONORABLE FREDERICK W. HALL

IN MEMORIAM

JUSTICE JOHN J. FRANCIS

1903—1984

JUSTICE FREDERICK W. HALL

1908—1984

New Jersey has recently lost two of its finest judges, John J. Francis and Frederick W. Hall. Each died early in July of this year, within a few days of one another.

Justice Francis sat on the Supreme Court of New Jersey from 1957 until 1972; Justice Hall was a member of the court from 1959 until 1975. Each of them, in addition to being a judge of outstanding general competence, had made an enviable reputation in a particular field of the law: Francis in the area of products liability and Hall in that of land use planning.

When I came to the court in 1971, I received a number of congratulatory messages. The only one I clearly remember came from Justice Francis. He simply wrote, "Congratulations and welcome home," a warm greeting I will never forget.

Jack Francis was a versatile man, with varied talents and many interests. He was a delightful companion. Seldom did we part from one another without my having a pleasant feeling that I had enjoyed myself and probably learned something as well.

We both loved to read and were fond of discussing books. We shared a special interest in English history. During the time spent together on the court, he and I seldom, if ever, disagreed as to the disposition of any case. Certainly we never disagreed in any important one.

Justice Francis was widely recognized as a sound and thorough scholar. As I have already said, he was remarkably versatile. He could expound and embellish any aspect of the law to which he turned.

He was, furthermore, a man of great vision, true humility, and deep compassion. He cared very much for the little man. His imprint on the law of our state will be very longlasting. In many ways he was a man for the ages.

Fred Hall and I had known one another for many years before I became a member of the supreme court. We first met in Newark as young lawyers. Later I appeared before him on many occasions

when he sat as assignment judge in Morris County. He was an outstanding trial judge, rather courtly in manner and always very well prepared. He enjoyed oral argument and listened to counsel with the utmost attention. A colloquy with him on a difficult or uncertain point of law was an intellectual delight, as many fine lawyers have attested.

Although he will probably be best remembered for his great contributions in the field of land use law, he was also very expert in most other areas of the law as well. He was a master of the whole intricate field of municipal law and wrote significant opinions in torts, criminal law, constitutional law, and upon many other subjects.

During the last twelve years that these two great jurists sat on the supreme court, they sat side by side. Now they have departed together, but each of them, together with his great contributions to law, will be long, long remembered.

*Worrall F. Mountain**

* Associate Justice, Supreme Court of New Jersey, 1971 to 1979.