



Supreme Court of Appeals State of West Virginia

News

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Justices mourn death of retired Judge Paul Zakaib, Jr.

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CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Senior Status Judge Paul Zakaib, Jr., died Tuesday in Charleston.

He served as a Kanawha County Circuit Judge for more than 27 years. He was first appointed to the bench on December 16, 1986, to replace Kanawha County Circuit Judge Robert K. Smith who retired. Judge Zakaib retired on August 31, 2014.

“I have fond memories of appearing before Judge Zakaib, who was a committed jurist and gentleman,” said Supreme Court Chief Justice Beth Walker. “We extend our heartfelt sympathy to his family.”

Justice Margaret Workman said, “Judge Zakaib was a great jurist with a long and honored legacy to the people of Kanawha County. My thoughts are with his family and many friends.”

“Judge Zakaib was an outstanding judge who served the people of Kanawha County and West Virginia with honor, fairness, and integrity,” said Justice Tim Armstead. “Our thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends, and colleagues.”

“Judge Zakaib was a champion of fair and equal justice for all,” said Justice Evan Jenkins. “His years of dedicated service leave a legacy of honorable public service.”

Justice John Hutchison said, “Judge Paul Zakaib was a friend and a mentor. His passing is a great loss to his family and friends and all of those who worked daily in a system dedicated to the preservation of the rule of law.”

After graduating from West Virginia University law school in 1958, Judge Zakaib began a series of jobs at the Capitol, including stops at the Tax Commission, the Department of Employment Security, the Economic Development Agency and the Department of Commerce.

He left Morris Harvey – now the University of Charleston -- for two years to serve in the Army, fighting in Korea.

Funeral arrangements are incomplete.

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