

Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

In Memoriam
HONORABLE
JUANITA KIDD STOUT

October 21, 1998



HONORABLE JUANITA KIDD STOUT

In Memoriam

CRIER: The Honorable, the Chief Justice and the Justices of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

Oyez, oyez, oyez. All manner of persons who stand bound by recognizance or who otherwise have business before this Court may now appear, and they shall be heard.

God save the Commonwealth and this Honorable Court.

Please be seated.

CHIEF JUSTICE FLAHERTY: The Court welcomes all who are here to observe, as the Court remembers a former colleague who passed away, and to make a matter of record the memory of one who has served as a member of this Court.

This will be a statement made on behalf of the Court to be kept with the records of this Court, and to be reported as part of the proceedings of this Court in memoriam to the late Madam Justice Juanita Kidd Stout.

The late Madam Justice Kidd Stout was born on March 7, 1919, in Wewoka, Oklahoma. On August 21, 1998, she passed away in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania at the age of 79.

Madam Justice Stout earned her B.A. degree in music from the University of Iowa, and J.D. and L.L.M. degrees from the Indiana University School of Law, Bloomington, Indiana. She married Dr. Charles Stout, who predeceased her.

In the course of her career, Madam Justice Stout served as administrative secretary to the late William H. Hastie, Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, and as Chief of the Appeals, Pardons and Parole Division of the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office.

In 1959, she became the first black woman in America to be elected to a court of record, the Philadelphia Municipal Court. Thereafter, she was elected twice to the Common Pleas Court of Philadelphia County.

In 1963, she was appointed by President John F. Kennedy as Special Ambassador of the United States Delegation to the Kenya, Africa Independence Celebration.

In 1967, she was appointed American Specialist under the Cultural and Educational Exchange Program of the State Department to tour six African countries.

Her highest achievement, in the minds of many, came on January 15, 1988, when then Judge Stout was appointed by Governor Robert P. Casey, Sr., to serve as Justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. The Senate unanimously confirmed her appointment, and she was inducted into office on March 3, 1988 and served until she reached her 70th birthday on March 7, 1989.

She returned to Philadelphia as Senior Judge, and sat again on the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia.

IN MEMORIAM

Madam Justice Stout has been awarded more than ten honorary doctoral degrees and has received numerous other awards, including the Distinguished Service Award by the University of Iowa; the Jane Addams Medal by Rockford College, Rockford, Illinois; the Henry G. Bennett Distinguished Service Award by Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma; and the Veil-Lifting Award by the Philadelphia Chapter of the Alumni Association of Tuskegee Institute.

On November 16, 1981, Madam Justice Stout was inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame. She received the 1988 Charles Hamilton Houston Medallion of Merit from the Washington Bar Association.

On October 8, 1988, Madam Justice Stout was named Justice of the Year by the National Association of Women Judges. On October 13, 1988 she was named by Governor Robert P. Casey, Sr., a Distinguished Daughter of Pennsylvania.

On November 4, 1988, Madam Justice Stout received the prestigious MPC/Gimbels Award for her humanitarian support.

On December 13, 1989 she received a Board of Education's John Fitzgerald Kennedy Humanitarian Award from the City of Philadelphia.

Ill health fell upon Madam Justice Stout this year, and she was hospitalized at Jefferson Hospital. She fought courageously until her death on Friday, August 21, 1998, at 12:31 p.m., in the company of friends.

Burial services were held in her birthplace of Wewoka, Oklahoma, where Justice Stout now lies in peace.

Madam Justice Stout will always be remembered by this Court for her service.

On behalf of this Court and on behalf of the citizens of Pennsylvania, we are grateful for her contributions to the Profession, to the Law and to Justice.

This Statement in Memoriam will be transcribed and made part of the record of this Court to be kept in perpetuity

Whereupon, the Statement concluded at 9:40 a.m.

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