



UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
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May 1, 2001

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jacqueline Ann Garcia
U.S. Bankruptcy Court (213) 894-6463

DOOLEY, Honorable James R.

James R. Dooley, United States Bankruptcy Judge for the Central District of California, died on April 27, 2001 in Rancho Mirage, California. Born August 20, 1920 in Anderson, South Carolina, he was 80 at the time of his death.

Judge Dooley was appointed to the bankruptcy court on November 1, 1976 and served on the bench until his retirement on January 31, 1992. He was the first African-American bankruptcy judge in the Ninth Circuit.

Judge Dooley graduated *magna cum laude* from Benedict College, South Carolina and the John Marshall Law School in Chicago, Illinois. Judge Dooley was awarded numerous honors and prizes, including election to the Order of John Marshall. Judge Dooley also received the Bobbs-Merrill Prize for highest standing in his Senior Year and the Illinois Constitutional Law Prize.

Judge Dooley had a distinguished military career, serving actively in the U.S. Army during World War II and the Korean War. He rose to the rank of 1st Lieutenant in 1942, and served in the reserves from 1945 to 1953.

Judge Dooley was admitted to the Illinois Bar in November of 1950 and to the California Bar several years later. He practiced privately for a short period until December 14, 1953 when he joined the U.S. Department of Justice in Los Angeles as an Assistant United States Attorney. During his years of service in the U.S. Attorney's Office, Judge Dooley continued to earn high praise from his colleagues. On June 25, 1965, he received an award from the Attorney General of the United States for meritorious service. From 1962 until 1976, Judge Dooley served as First Assistant Chief of the Civil Division in the U.S. Attorney's Office until his appointment to the bench in 1976.

As a well-liked and highly respected member of the Bar, Judge Dooley chaired the Disciplinary Board of the State Bar of California as well as the Federal Courts and Practice Committee of the Los Angeles County Bar Association in the early 1970's. Judge Dooley served in many executive positions, including President of the Los Angeles Chapter of the Federal Bar Association and, later, Treasurer of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges. He was also a long-time member of the John M. Langston Bar Association, the Judicial Sections of the National Bar Association and California Association of Black Lawyers, and the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity.

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During his tenure as a judge, he authored numerous published bankruptcy decisions and adjudicated some of the largest and most complex bankruptcy cases in California. Among the many honors and tributes commemorating his retirement, Judge Dooley received a salute in the Congressional Record of the United States House of Representatives.

According to Judge David Naugle, a long-time colleague "Judge Dooley was known for his kindness, optimism and love in his heart for everyone." His colleagues on the bench recall his devotion to due process and the beneficial side of law as a way of keeping people civilized and courtly. He strongly believed in giving everyone full opportunity to participate in the judicial process, and it was not unusual for hearings to last into the evening until all parties had been heard.

Judge Dooley is survived by his beloved wife, La Curtis Ruth Walls Dooley, and children Jerold Richard Dooley, M.D., Andre Williams and Olivia Amos.

Funeral services will be held on Thursday, May 3, 2001, at 3:30 p.m. at the Palm Springs Mortuary located at 69855 E. Ramon Road in Cathedral City. The entombment will take place at the Palm Springs Mausoleum immediately following the service.

Formal memorial services will be held at 12 noon on Saturday, May 5th at Holman Methodist Church, 3320 W. Adams Boulevard in Los Angeles.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the James R. Dooley Memorial Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 228, 36101 Bob Hope Drive, Rancho Mirage, California 92270.

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