

MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT



Office of Public Information

contact: Marcia McBrien | (517) 373-0129

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HON. HILDA GAGE MOURNED BY MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT, COURT OF APPEALS; GAGE REMEMBERED AS TRAILBLAZER

LANSING, MI, September 14, 2010 – Judge Hilda R. Gage, who served on both the Michigan Court of Appeals and Oakland County Circuit Court, is remembered “for her courage and her legal scholarship, both of which she had in large measure,” said Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Marilyn Kelly. “On behalf of the Michigan Supreme Court, I extend my deepest sympathies to Judge Gage’s daughter Julie Gage Palmer, to Judge Gage’s grandchildren, to her brother Harvey Rosenberg, and to all her family and friends.”

Court of Appeals Chief Judge William B. Murphy said that Gage will be remembered as a trailblazer. “She was a leader in the legal profession at a time when the law was very much dominated by men,” said Murphy. “She was a great judge and a great lady. The Court of Appeals is in mourning today for one of its most distinguished members.”

Gage, who died on September 13 at age 71, stepped down from the Michigan Court of Appeals in 2006, citing health problems. She suffered from multiple sclerosis.

Gage was appointed to the Court of Appeals in 1997, after serving as a judge and chief judge of the Oakland County Circuit Court, to which she was first elected in 1978. Appointed to both the Michigan Civil Rights Commission and the Michigan Sentencing Guidelines Commission, Gage was the first woman to serve as chairperson of the National Conference of State Trial Judges of the American Bar Association. She was also the first woman president of the Michigan Judges Association and the first woman to chair the Michigan Judicial Tenure Commission.

A Fellow of the American Bar Foundation and of the Michigan Bar Foundation, Gage was active in community service. She was a member of the Executive Boards of Children’s Hospital of Michigan and the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

A graduate of the University of Michigan, where she earned both bachelor’s and master’s degrees with distinction, Gage received her law degree with high honors from the Wayne State University Law School.

A memorial service is planned for Wednesday, September 15, at 3 p.m. at the Ira Kaufman Chapel, 18325 W. Nine Mile Road, Southfield. Rabbi Daniel Syme will officiate.

According to the Ira Kaufman Chapel web site, memorial donations may be made to one of the following: the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Children's Hospital of Michigan, Dysautonomia Foundation, or Henry Ford Health System.

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