

LOCAL OBITUARIES

Arthur J. England Jr., former Florida Supreme Court chief justice, dies

BY ELINOR J. BRECHER
AUGUST 01, 2013 03:47 PM



Arthur Jay England Jr., a Florida Supreme Court justice from 1975-1981 and its chief justice from 1978-1980, authored Florida’s Corporate Income Tax Code, the 1973 Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act — known as the “Little FTC Act” — and the Florida Administrative Procedures Act.

But he was proudest of bringing the Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts (IOLTA) system to Florida, a way to fund legal services for the poor with the bank interest on client money that lawyers deposit in banks.

Under England’s direction, the Florida Bar Foundation started the country’s first IOLTA program in 1981. It has since been adopted by every state and the District of Columbia.

England died of pulmonary fibrosis at home in Coral Gables on Thursday. The day before, he was still working on cases, “tethered to an oxygen machine,” said Deborah Miller England, his wife of 29 years. She also is an attorney — as are two of his six children.

Born in Dayton, Ohio, on Dec. 23, 1932, England was 80, a veteran of the U.S. Army.

In 2008, Miami-Dade’s Eleventh Judicial Circuit Historical Society Board named England a “Legal Legend,” one of 12 honored that year for outstanding contributions to the legal system and the administration of justice in the county.

AMERICAN CRUISE LINES

MISSISSIPPI RIVER

ARKANSAS

LOUISIANA

MISSISSIPPI

TENNESSEE

Memphis

Helena

Tunica

Greenville

Vicksburg

Natchez

St. Francisville

Baton Rouge

Oak Alley

New Orleans

CRUISING THE MISSISSIPPI

REQUEST FREE BROCHURE



By then, he had accumulated a long list of awards, including the Florida Bar Foundation's Medal of Honor.

He once worked at the law firms of Fine Jacobson Block England Klein Colan & Simon, and Steel, Hector & Davis.

Martin Dyckman, a retired reporter from what was then the St. Petersburg Times — now the Tampa Bay Times — spent years covering England's career. He said that one of his great achievements was getting elected in the first place during a time when the court was rocked by scandals that forced justices to resign.

He was a pilot, said Dyckman, and barnstormed the state on a limited budget drumming up support.

He took the bench as a reformer and an ally of then-Gov. Reubin Askew “during a time when it was pretty risky for lawyers to come out against the clique on the court,” Dyckman said.

Askew called England's election to the court more important than his own to the statehouse, Dyckman said.

During England's tenure as chief justice, the court decided to restrict its own jurisdiction, which Dyckman called England's “signal achievement.”

After leaving the bench, England spent the bulk of his legal career, 1992-2012, at Greenberg Traurig, where he founded and co-chaired the National Appellate Practice.

In 1990, he'd founded the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers, serving as its charter president, and last year established a solo appellate practice.

England was Florida's first Jewish Supreme Court justice. He was active in Jewish causes, including the Anti-Defamation League, and was a past president of Temple Israel in Tallahassee. He belonged to Temple Beth Am in Pinecrest.

Richard A. Rosenbaum, Greenberg Traurig's chief executive officer, said in a statement that England “was consistently honored throughout the years for his many outstanding contributions to the legal system. But what those who knew him personally will remember most is the man who exhibited the class, values, ethics and gentle spirit that served as a role model to his firm and his profession.”

Elliot H. Scherker, a shareholder in Greenberg Traurig's appellate practice who joined the firm 20 years ago to work with England, called his friend “one of the giants of the legal profession in Florida. He served as a mentor and role model for the lawyers within his group, as well as many others. His commitment to the rule of law was unparalleled and his service to The Florida Bar and its Foundation was unequalled.”

According to his website, England served two years in the Army's Counter-Intelligence Corps. He held degrees from the University Pennsylvania's Wharton

Child advocate Rosa Maria Plasencia dies unexpectedly



H. Wayne Huizenga talks about getting started in business

[VIEW MORE VIDEO →](#)

TRENDING STORIES

Let's go inside the Miami Beach wedding of a political powerhouse couple

MARCH 04, 2019 05:30 PM

A cold front is on the way to Florida. Here's what it means for us thin-blooded wimps

MARCH 05, 2019 06:23 AM

VIDEOS

Here are potential replacements for Tannehill while Dolphins await QB of the future

MARCH 04, 2019 06:58 PM

What does it mean to live 'on the hook' in Key West? Let these boaters show you

MARCH 04, 2019 03:02 PM

Luke Perry: A Look Back at His Life and Career

SPONSORED [Connatix](#)

'Roller-coaster' weather will make South Florida sweat before a big change

MARCH 04, 2019 07:32 AM

School of Finance and Commerce and its law school, as well as from the University of Miami’s law school, from which he earned a Master of Laws in Taxation.

He served as Special Tax Counsel to the Florida House of Representatives, where he authored the Florida Corporate Income Tax Code, and as Consumer Advisor and Special Counsel to Askew. He helped bring cameras into Florida’s trial courts and advocated expanding them to all courts.

A prolific contributor to the Miami Herald’s op-ed page, he co-authored a piece in 2011 calling for broader acceptance of cameras in federal courtrooms. The article, written with Talbot "Sandy" D’Alemberte, president emeritus of Florida State University and a former president of the American Bar Association, noted that “in 30 years, not a single conviction in Florida has been reversed because of cameras.”

In private practice, England represented the Florida Department of Agricultural in appeals involving the citrus canker eradication program of the mid-1990s. Working for pro-gambling interests, he helped draft the casino gambling measure that voters rejected in the November 1994 election.

Just before the November 2012 elections, England joined five other former Supreme Court justices in signing an op-ed lambasting the Republican Party of Florida for campaigning against three sitting judges’ retentions, based on their ruling in a death-penalty case.

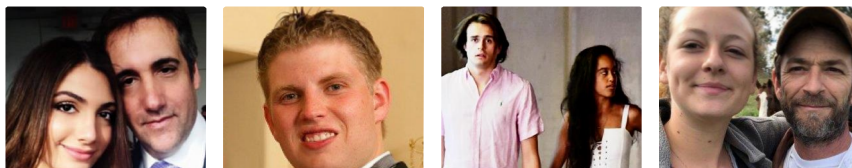
“The justices’ votes in one case, or even a few cases, should not be relevant to their retention,” the former justices wrote. “Both Republican and Democratic leaders have at times been unhappy with some of the court’s decisions. That is the nature of judicial decisions.

“The entire point of a fair and impartial judiciary is that its decisions will not be influenced by outside forces such as campaign donations or political pressure. ...The RPOF’s recent unprecedented attempt to politicize the judiciary ... undermines the purpose of the merit selection and retention process, which is precisely to remove partisan politics from the judiciary.”

In addition to his wife, England is survived by daughters Andrea England, Karen England and Pamela Rogers, and son Aaron England, all of Miami, as well as daughters Rachel England of Texas and Ellen Morag of Israel. He had four daughters with Morley “Dee Dee” England, of Hollywood, from whom he was divorced.

The family plans a private funeral.

FROM OUR ADVERTISING PARTNERS



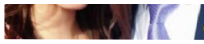
America’s #1 College Retailer
 FREE SHIPPING to the campus store

eFollett.com **SHOP NOW ▶**

Sell Your Business
 34 Years Experience. Confidential. No Retainers. Thousands of Buyers, Worldwide.
 Gottesman Company

LEASE A NEW 2019 4RUNNER
 \$369 per month for 36 months
 \$3299 due at signing

Options shown. [View disclaimers.](#) **SEE OFFERS**
FIND A DEALER



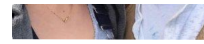
The Untold Truth Of Michael Cohen's Daughter



This Is How Far Every Trump Got in School



Malia Obama's Boyfriend Comes From A Lot of Money



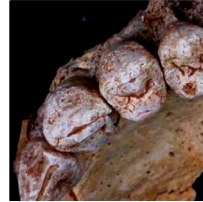
Luke Perry's Daughter Sophie Speaks Out About His Death



Winona Ryder Is Not Letting Anyone Forget She's Married to Keanu



This is Why You Don't Hear About Chef Emeril Lagasse Anymore



Oldest Human Fossil Outside Africa Unearthed Inside Israeli Cave



The Surprising Truth Behind Costco's 5-Dollar Rotisserie Chicken

Comments

0 Comments

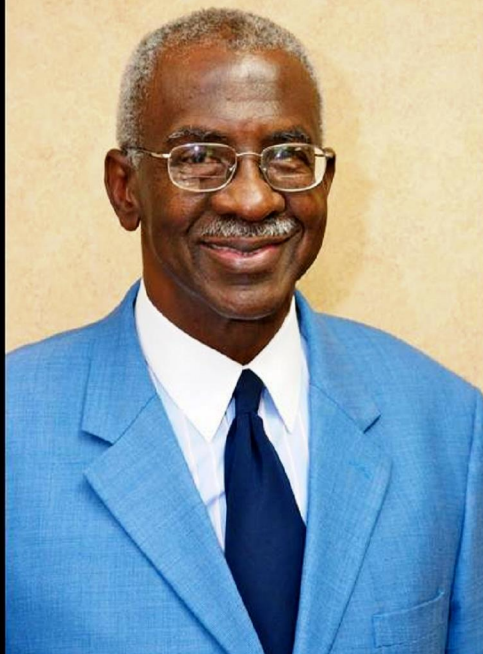
Sort by Oldest



Add a comment...

Facebook Comments Plugin

READ NEXT



LOCAL OBITUARIES

Herman Dorsett, founding FIU professor and longtime civic leader, dies at 78

BY CARLI TEPROFF

MARCH 04, 2019 08:29 PM



Herman Dorsett, a founding professor at Florida International University, the first African American to sit on the Judicial Nominating Commission and a longtime civic leader in Miami, died Saturday at age 78.

KEEP READING →

America's #1 College Retailer
FREE SHIPPING to the campus store



eFollett.com
SHOP NOW ▶

TAKE US WITH YOU

Real-time updates and all local stories you want right in the palm of your hand.

 [MIAMI HERALD APP →](#)

 [VIEW NEWSLETTERS →](#)



LEARN MORE

[About Us](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Newsletters](#)

[News in Education](#)

[Public Insight Network](#)

[Reader Panel](#)

SUBSCRIPTIONS

[Start a Subscription](#)

[Customer Service](#)

[eEdition](#)

[Vacation Hold](#)

[Pay Your Bill](#)

[Rewards](#)

ADVERTISING

[Place a Classified](#)

[Media Kit](#)

[Commercial Printing](#)

[Public Notices](#)

[COPYRIGHT](#)

[COMMENTING POLICY](#)

[PRIVACY POLICY](#)

[TERMS OF SERVICE](#)

