



JUDGE ROBERT BOOCHEVER

1939-2011

The Alaska Court System mourns the passing of former Alaska Supreme Court Justice Robert Boochever, who died this week at his home in California at age 94. Judge Boochever was appointed to the Alaska Supreme Court by Governor William Egan and served on the court from 1972-1980, including a term as Chief Justice from 1975 to 1978. In 1980, he was appointed by President Jimmy Carter to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, becoming the first Alaskan to serve on this federal appeals court.

Judge Boochever first came to Alaska in 1945 following service in the Army during World War II. He first worked as a U.S. Attorney in Juneau, then maintained a private practice for 25 years with the Juneau firm Faulkner, Banfield, Boochever & Doogan. Before joining the bench, he served as president of both the Alaska Bar Association and the Juneau Bar Association, in addition to many other public service activities. According to a 1997 tribute in the *Alaska Bar Rag*, he was “revered by his friends and neighbors as a dedicated advocate who championed causes that helped shape the Juneau community.”

In 1986, Judge Boochever moved to California, where the Ninth Circuit is based, and took senior status with the court. He handled a reduced caseload for many years, returning to Juneau each summer to hear cases and spend time with family and friends.

Justice Craig Stowers of the Alaska Supreme Court worked as a law clerk for Judge Boochever from 1985-1986. This week he offered a personal reflection on the judge’s remarkable contributions to our state during an interview with KTOO Radio in Juneau:

<http://www.ktoo.org/2011/10/11/justice-boochever-passes/>

Judge Boochever is survived by four children and eleven grandchildren, several of whom still live in Juneau. As members of Alaska’s judicial community, we are grateful for his legacy and extend our deepest sympathy to his family.