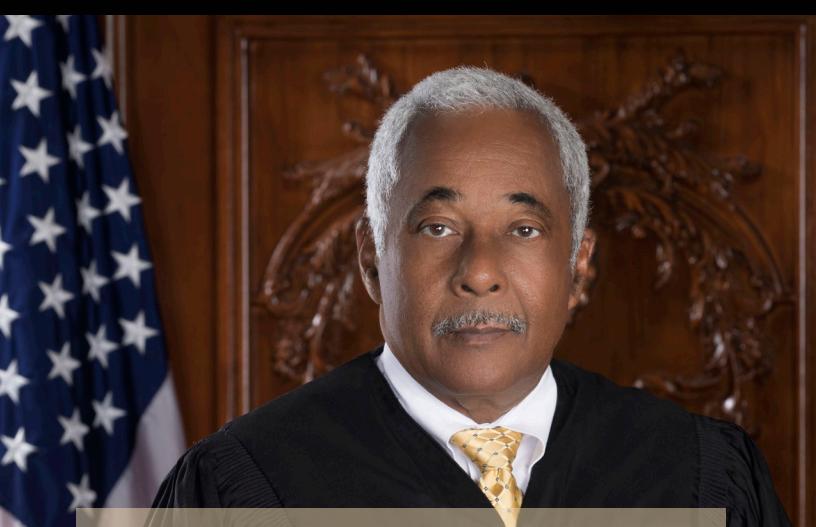


Bidding a Fond Farewell Supreme Court Justices

The Nevada legal community will be saying goodbye to two justices in the coming year. Chief Justice Michael Douglas and former Chief Justice Michael A. Cherry will both retire at the end of their terms on January 6, 2019.



CHIEF JUSTICE MICHAEL DOUGLAS

will forever appear on a list of famous firsts in Nevada history. Even prior to his history-making appointment, Douglas was a distinguished member of Nevada's legal community. In addition to his landmark career, he also gave back to his community.

A native of Los Angeles, Douglas received his undergraduate degree from California State College, Long Beach, in 1971. He earned his Juris Doctorate from the University of California Hastings College of Law in 1974. Douglas began private practice in Philadelphia. In 1982, he decided to relocate to Las Vegas. The move was prompted by his desire to return to the western U.S. and by the fact that he had family living in Las Vegas at the time.

Douglas' remarkable legal career in Nevada began when he took what he assumed was going to be a temporary job as an attorney with Nevada Legal Services. That temporary job ended up lasting for two years, after which Douglas went to work for the Clark County District Attorney's Office. He served in the Civil Division of the D.A.'s office until 1995. In 1996, he was appointed to the Eighth Judicial District Court bench. Later that same year, Nevada's voters elected him to continue in his position on the bench. During his time at the district court, Douglas served as a judge for the district's business court as well as handling a variety of cases, both criminal and civil. Douglas became Chief Judge of the Eighth Judicial District Court in October 2003.

In March 2004, when appointed to fill the vacancy left by the passing of Justice Myron E. Leavitt, Douglas became the first African-American ever to serve on Nevada's Supreme Court. Though originally appointed to the position, Douglas went on to be retained in an election and was elected to two more terms on the Nevada Supreme Court. Douglas served his first term as Chief Justice in 2011 and his second this year.

During his time on the Supreme Court, Douglas was instrumental in developing the Nevada Supreme Court Access to Justice Commission, an organization that works to ensure all Nevadans, especially those in financial difficulty, are able to utilize the state's legal system through both pro bono and self-help services. Last year, Douglas helped bring family court forms to the Supreme Court's website, so that they could be used by pro se litigants in Nevada's rural communities.

Douglas' goals for his final term on the bench and as chief justice included helping Nevada courts improve their services to those with substance abuse and mental health challenges, and ensuring that resources were allocated to the continued work of Justice James Hardesty's Permanent Guardianship Commission. Other progress includes the expansion of specialty courts and improving the Nevada's guardianship procedures.

Over the years, Douglas has been a member of the Judicial Council of the State of Nevada and Vice President of the Nevada District Judges Association. He currently co-chairs the Nevada Supreme Court Bench-Bar Committee, the Nevada Supreme Court Access to Justice Commission and the Nevada Supreme Court Specialty Court Funding Committee. Douglas is a past president of the Nevada chapter of the American Inns of Court and has been an active participant in groups working to oppose domestic violence. He has also participated in a number of law-related groups, including the National Bar Association (which honored Douglas with its Lifetime Achievement Award in 2016), and the Consumer Credit Counseling Service. Always active within the State Bar of Nevada, Douglas served two years on the Board of Directors for the Nevada Law Foundation and seven years on the State Bar of Nevada's Southern Disciplinary Board.

Throughout his busy career, Douglas found many ways to give back to his community during his free time, including devoting his energies to helping young people in both Nevada and California. He worked as a sports volunteer and coach, and he frequently speaks at schools in the Clark County area. While serving as a district court judge, Douglas was also the judicial sponsor of the annual Spirit of the Arts Contest, a student art contest centered on the themes and spirit of Nevada.

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Both Cherry and Douglas have had a huge impact on Nevada's legal community, and their contributions will continue to resonate with the citizens of the state of Nevada.



JUSTICE MICHAEL A. CHERRY

served twice as the Chief Justice of Nevada's highest court. Cherry accomplished several firsts during his time on the bench. Prior to his election to judge, Cherry's work had made his name well-known in legal circles.

Cherry, originally from St. Louis, earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Missouri, in 1966. In 1969, he received his juris doctorate from Washington University School of Law. He was admitted to the State Bar of Nevada in 1970, and he began his legal career as a deputy Clark County public defender. After leaving the Public Defender's Office, he went into private practice, becoming a partner first with the law firm of Manos & Cherry and then with Cherry, Bailus & Kelesis. Notably, Cherry became Special Master of the MGM Grand Hotel Fire litigation in 1981, and just a few years later, in 1983, he assumed the same duties for the Las Vegas Hilton Fire litigation. Cherry's work on these cases brought him national recognition; more importantly, he established the procedures that are now commonly used in most mass disaster litigation.

In addition to his other work in the legal field, Cherry served as an alternate municipal judge for the cities of Las Vegas and Henderson, and as a justice of the peace pro tem and small claims referee for Clark County. In 1994, he added teaching to his schedule, becoming an instructor for the University of Phoenix, where he taught business law and history. In 1997, Cherry was named to lead a then-new Clark County Special Public

Successors for both Douglas and Cherry will be sworn in on Monday, January 7, 2019. Justice Mark Gibbons will take over the role of Chief Justice.

Defender's Office, created to handle major homicide and conflict cases from the Clark County Public Defender's Office. Cherry headed a staff of six attorneys while serving in that capacity until November 1998, when he was elected to serve as judge in Department 17 of the Eighth Judicial District Court.

Cherry was elected to the Nevada Supreme Court in 2006. In 2007, under Cherry's leadership, the Nevada Supreme Court convened the Indigent Defense Commission, which he still chairs today. The commission filed its initial report in 2007, making recommendations for changes to Nevada's system of dealing with individuals in desperate need of legal defense, but who had no way to pay for it.

Cherry was re-elected to another six-year term in 2012, and he served as Chief Justice from May 2012 to January 2013. Cherry was a huge proponent of Nevada's much-needed appellate court and, when the proposal went in front of voters again in 2014, he made it one of his missions to get the word out to the public about how necessary the Court of Appeals was to Nevada.

By the time Cherry stepped into his second term as Chief Justice in 2017, Nevada not only had an appellate court, but was just a few months away from moving into a new building in downtown Las Vegas—one that now houses both the Las Vegas members of the Nevada Court of Appeals and the Nevada Supreme Court. Cherry presided over the first oral arguments that took place in the new courthouse.

Cherry also brought his decade-long effort to improve indigent defense in Nevada to fruition, when, at the end of the 2017 Nevada Legislature, he was instrumental in obtaining passage of Senate Bill 377. The bill established the Nevada Right to Counsel Commission, designed to provide guidance to legislators in improving the delivery of indigent defense services in Nevada. Cherry also ensured that the Legislature made serious reforms to the guardianship system in Nevada and brought about the creation of the Nevada Sentencing Commission to eliminate sentencing inconsistency by Nevada judges. He helped establish a yearly continuing legal education requirement for substance abuse prevention and treatment (the AAMH credit), chaired the selection of new district court judges in Clark and Washoe counties, emerged as an active leader in the Conference of Chief Justices, served on the Executive Committee of the Appellate Judges Conference of the American Bar Association and served as the supervising justice for Senior Justices and Senior Judges. **NL**