

IN MEMORIAM



NOEL EDWIN MANOUKIAN

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Supreme Court Justice Noel Edwin Manoukian served on the Nevada Supreme Court from 1977 until 1985. Justice Manoukian passed away on April 11, 2019, at the age of 81. He was known for his commitment to constitutional law and equal justice, and he demonstrated great mercy and compassion for his fellow human beings.

Justice Manoukian was known affectionately as “Newk” by his lifelong friends and college buddies. Born in Livingston, California, on January 1, 1938, he was the youngest of five siblings. Justice Manoukian came from a modest background and grew up working in the vineyards in his hometown. In 1951, his family moved to Reno, Nevada, where he attended Reno High School, playing football, participating in track, and serving on the student council and as student body president. He attended Hartnell Junior College in Salinas, California, on a football scholarship before transferring to the University of the Pacific in Stockton, California, where he served as class president twice and was a member of the Delta Upsilon Fraternity and the Blue Key Honor Society, a premier honor society that recognizes college students for their all-around excellence in scholarship, leadership, and service.

Justice Manoukian graduated college in 1961, earning his bachelor’s degree in both political science and philosophy. He considered becoming a minister until enticed by his older brother Milton with the idea of opening up a law firm: Manoukian and Manoukian. He went on to earn his Juris Doctor degree in 1964 from Santa Clara University School of Law in California and served as a law clerk to Judge Thomas Craven and Judge John Barrett, both of Reno. Shortly thereafter, he moved to Zephyr Cove in Lake Tahoe to realize the brothers’ dream of starting their own law practice.

Much of Justice Manoukian’s formative time in private practice was spent traveling; he attended hearings not only in Lake Tahoe, but also in the Carson Valley, in Carson City, and in areas even farther away. In 1965, he worked for Douglas County as a deputy district attorney prosecuting cases at Lake Tahoe. On New Year’s Eve 1968, Justice Manoukian met his wife Louise Andresakis, and they married on April 8, 1969. Soon after, he became a legislative

liaison for former Governor Mike O'Callaghan, who served as governor from 1971 to 1979. Justice Manoukian was kept extremely busy running his law practice while trying to balance the interests of both Democrats and Republicans at the Legislature in Carson City. During this time, his firm's clients would hear from him at all hours of the day or night. He remarked, "I'd report to them at the darnedest hours. I knew who would be awake at 2 a.m."

An accomplishment Justice Manoukian was quite proud of was the creation of the Ninth Judicial District in Douglas County. In 1974, he was appointed by Governor O'Callaghan to finish out the term of First Judicial District Judge Richard Waters, who had passed away. At the time, the First Judicial District comprised Carson City and Douglas, Churchill, and Lyon Counties. Justice Manoukian lobbied before the Legislature for the formation of another district, the Ninth Judicial District of Douglas and Lyon Counties, and his effort was successful.

Justice Manoukian was appointed by Governor O'Callaghan to a vacancy on the Nevada Supreme Court in 1977. He remained on the supreme court until 1985, serving as chief justice his last two years. He returned to private practice after his time on the supreme court, until he was sworn in as a senior district judge in 2003.

Justice Manoukian's honors include the City of Hope Jurist of the Year in 1978, the Santa Clara School of Law Owens Lawyer of the Year in 1978, and the University of the Pacific Alumnus of the Year for distinguished public service in 1983. He also earned the Nevada Supreme Court Appellate Mediation Program award of "Most Cases Settled" in 1998. His dedication to public service is evidenced by the number of local, state, and national advisory commissions on which he served. He was a member of the following professional organizations: the American Bar Association; the Nevada Bar Association; the Nevada Supreme Court Appellate Mediation Panel; the Ninth Judicial District Bar Association; the Nevada Trial Lawyers Association; and the Arbitration Panel of the First, Second, and Ninth Districts of Nevada; and he was the former Chair of the National Conference of Chief Justices Standing Committee on Alternate Dispute Resolution. In addition to his contributions to the legal community, he served as the Chair of the Nevada Division of the American Cancer Society, he was involved in the Northern Nevada Chapter of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, and he was a member of the Nevada Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

Justice Manoukian and his wife Louise had two children: daughter Jacqueline (Jacquie) and son Joseph (Joey) Manoukian. They raised their family in the Carson Valley, and they spent their summers in Graeagle, California, with family and close friends. They often traveled around the United States and Europe when legal

conferences could double as family vacations. In addition to traveling, Justice Manoukian greatly enjoyed football. If he was not watching football, he was talking about the sport.

Justice Manoukian died a few days after celebrating his fiftieth wedding anniversary with his wife Louise. To so many people he was a mentor and a leader, a confidante and a teammate. Justice Manoukian will be remembered as a kind, selfless man with strong convictions, great compassion, impeccable integrity, an incredible sense of humor, and a tremendous love of the law.

