

## In Memoriam, Justice Frank Murphy

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# In Memoriam

## Justice Frank Murphy

The country was shocked at the news of the untimely death on July 19, 1949, of Justice Frank Murphy, at the age of 59. During his more than nine years upon the Supreme Court, this champion of the minorities had left an indelible impress upon the judicial history of this country

Justice Murphy was born in Harbor Beach, Michigan, April 13, 1890. He obtained his Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Law degrees at the University of Michigan, and was admitted to the bar in 1914. For the next three years he acted as law clerk and as teacher in a night law school. He then entered the service of his country in World War I and was commissioned a first lieutenant of infantry. Upon his return to Michigan he served a year as Assistant United States Attorney, and also engaged in private practice. From 1922 to 1927 he was instructor in the Law School of the University of Detroit, and from 1923 to 1930 he was judge of the Recorder's Court of Detroit. Thereafter he was elected mayor of Detroit and then was appointed Governor General and later High Commissioner of the Philippines. In 1936 he was elected Governor of Michigan, in 1939 he was appointed Attorney General of the United States, and in January, 1940, became an associate justice of our highest court.

In his various positions of high responsibility Frank Murphy always endeavored to follow the dictates of his conscience, and the rule of stare decisis did not weigh heavily upon him. He was a soft-spoken, hard-hitting humanitarian, with an abiding faith in democracy. He enlisted and fought upon the side of those suffering economic or social injustice. If he thought a person was losing any of his civil rights, Frank Murphy fought vigorously for him, no matter how painful the sting of public opinion.

Frank Murphy was a deeply religious man of fine personal habits. He intensely believed in his fellow man, without respect to creed or color. His philosophy was well expressed when he said, "In the scheme of democracy, as in the code of Christianity, all men are on a common level of dignity and importance."

F RYAN DUFFY  
U. S. Circuit Judge

