OBITUARY

HAHN, JUDGE, JEROME J.

Judge J. Jerome Hahn Dead; Had Long Career as Jurist

Gained Reputation as "Best Policeman" by Long Sentences

Former Associate Justice J. Jerome Hahn of the Supreme Court died this morning at his home, 333 Angell street. He was 70 years old August 20.

Justice Hahn served on the Supreme Court from Feb. 27, 1931, to January, 1935, when the "bloodless revolution" of the Democrats swept the entire Supreme Court from office. Previous to his elevation to the highest court in the State, Judge Hahn served on the Superior Court, being elected March 27, 1919, to fill the vacancy caused by the elevation of Judge Elmer J. Rathbun to the Supreme Court.

Real Estate Expert

As a practicing lawyer, Judge Hahn specialized in bankruptcy law before the United States Court. He was an expert in real estate matters, having inherited the business sagacity of his father who had wide holdings in real estate.

For the greater part of his time on the Superior Bench, Judge Hahn presided over the criminal session of that court. In admiration of Judge Hahn's handling of criminal cases, former Police Superintendent William F. O'Neil once characterized him as "the best policeman."

Judge Hahn possessed an almost uncanny knack of reading human nature. Often, in giving an offender another chance, he would say: "You'll be back," and in most instances they did come back. His stiff sentences to criminals struck fear in the hearts of those living outside the law and aided police in their war against known underworld characters.



J. JEROME HAHN

After serving on the criminal bench for nearly 10 years, Judge Hahn in a letter to the then presiding justice, Willard B. Tanner, requested that he be relieved of his duties in the criminal room. He was succeeded by Judge Charles A. Walsh. He served on civil matters until his election to fill the vacancy caused by the death of his friend and former Superior Court associate, Judge Chester W. Barrows, on the Supreme bench.

Before the Supreme Court was transferred from the old brick building on Benefit street to the new Providence County Court House, a portrait of Justice Barrows was hung on the wall of the old Supreme Court room. It was reported to have been the gift of Judge Hahn. At any rate, during the sessions of the court it was in the direct line of vision of Judge Hahn's seat and he had been noticed to regard it frequently. The portrait is now in the Lawyers' Lounge of the new Supreme Court room.

Judge Hahn was born in Albany, Aug. 20, 1868, a son of the late Isaac and Rose (Stern) Hahn. He moved to this city with his parents two years later and attended the public schools here. He was educated in Boston University and Boston University School of Law, where he received the degree of bachelor of laws in 1889. He was admitted to the Massachusetts Bar after his graduation and two years later to the Rhode Island Bar. He was the second Jew in Rhode Island to pass the bar examinations and

...the practice of law. He was a member of the U. S. District Court bar, the Court of Appeals and U. S. Supreme Court bar.

When on June 12, 1933, Judge Hahn was honored by his Alma Mater, Boston University, with the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws, Dr. Daniel L. Marsh, its president, characterized him as a "faithful jurist whose conscientious fairness inspires confidence."

Judge Hahn served as a member of the Providence County Court House Commission, which built the present court house.

In December, 1928, Judge Hahn notified Mayor James E. Dunne that he would deed to the city of Providence after Feb. 28, 1930, the property at North Main street and Alamo lane in which the famous Roger Williams Spring was located. The gift was made as a memorial to his father, who was the first citizen of Providence of the Hebrew faith to hold elective office. The property had a tax valuation of $41,788.

Judge Hahn had large holdings in real estate, much of it being downtown property, the annual assessment upon which reached upward of half a million dollars.

His sense of fairness well known, Judge Hahn acted as an arbitrator in labor disputes. He was a member of the old Pen and Pencil Club, the

HAHN, JEROME

OBITUARY

HAHN—In Providence, R. I., Dec. 6, 1938, J. Jerome, husband of Katherine M. Hahn, and son of Rose S., and the late Isaac Hahn. Funeral services private, please do not send flowers.

Judge —
HAHN, J. JEROME

HAHN,
Judge J. Jerome

Judge J. Jerome Hahn Dies; Appointed to Bench in 1919

Private funeral services were held this week for Judge J. Jerome Hahn, 70, who died on Tuesday morning at his home, 323 Angell Street.



JUDGE HAHN

Born in Albany, August 20, 1868, a son of the late Isaac and Rose Hahn, he moved to this city with his parents two years ago and attended the public schols. He was educated in Boston University and Boston University School of Law, where he received the degree of bachelor of laws in 1889. He was admitted to the Massachusetts Bar after his graduation and two years later to the Rhode Island Bar. He was the second Jew in Rhode Island to pass the bar examinations and enter the practice of law.

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He was well known for his sense of fairness. He acted as an arbitrator in labor disputes. He was a member of the old Pen and Pencil Club, the Turks Head Club, and last year was elected honorary president of Temple Beth El at the 93rd annual meeting of the Congregation, in recognition of his more than 40 years' service to that group.

Besides his widow, Mrs. Kahterine (Marr) Hahn, he is survived by his mother.