PJ-B

ROTENBERG
Judge Ernest

Probate Judge Ernest Rotenberg, 67; ruled on 'aversive therapy' for autism

ATTLEBORO, Mass. — First Justice of Bristol County Probate Court Ernest I. Rotenberg, 67, of Upland Road, died Tuesday at his vacation home in Brewster. He was the husband of Gladys (Cohen) Rotenberg.



Judge Rotenberg, who served on the bench for 20 years, gained national recognition in 1986 for restoring so-called "aversive therapy" at a school for severly autistic children.

In 1988, the American Bar Association awarded Judge Rotenberg its annual Franklin N. Flaschner Award, recognizing him as one of the nation's outstanding trial court judges. It was the first time a Massachusetts judge had won the award.

He also received the Haskell C. Freedman Award in 1988 in recognition of his "outstanding contribution in writing and teaching in the field of family law." This award was presented by the Massachusetts Chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers.

Judge John J. Dolan, presiding justice of the Attleboro District Court, said Judge Rotenberg was a longtime friend.

"I knew him best as a hard-working, caring individual," Dolan said.

"Although he worked long hours, he remained a well-rounded person having interest in sports, politics, and especially his family.

Dolan said Judge Rotenberg was exceptionally well suited to a court that worked with children because he related well to them.

"He would do magic tricks to put them at ease," Dolan said.

Stephen P. Dalrymple, president of the Bristol County Bar Association, said Judge Rotenberg will be missed.

"He was a scholar of the law, who expected preparation in his court in exchange for the fairness that one could expect from Judge Rotenberg," Dalrymple said.

Judge Rotenberg was appointed to the Probate and Family Court in 1973 by former Gov. Francis Sargent. He was an adjunct professor at Suffolk University Law School, Boston, where he taught trial advocacy.

Before his judicial appointment, he was a practicing trial lawyer for 25 years, and had been a Bristol County assistant district attorney, and special assistant attorney general.

He attended Colby College and graduated from Tufts University in 1945. He was a 1947 graduate of the Boston University Law School.

Judge Rotenberg was a former member of the Attleboro City Council.

Born in Attleboro, he was a son of the late Joseph and Jenny (Almer) Rotenberg.

Besides his wife, he leaves three daughters, Nancy Peterson and Joan Resnicow, both of Newton, and Carol Johnson of Worcester; a brother, Sheldon Rotenberg of Brookline; a sister, Tilda Kessler of Providence, and eight grandchildren.

The funeral service was to be held today at 2 p.m. at the Agudas Achim Congregation, North Main Street. Burial was to be in Agudas Achim Cemetery.

ROTENBERG,
Judge Ernest I.

July 7, 1992. Of Attleboro and Brewster, MA. Beloved Husband of Gladys (Cohen) Rotenberg. Loving Father of Nancy Peterson and her Husband Joel of Newton; Carol Johnson and her Husband Dr. Kirk of Worcester and Joan Resnicow and her Husband Michael of Newton. Adored Grandfather of eight. Dear Brother of Sheldon Rotenberg of Brookline, Tilda Kessler of Providence, RI and the late Attorney Henry Rotenberg and Marian White. Services at Agudas Achim Congregation, Kelly and Toner Blvd., Attleboro on Thursday, July 9th at 2:00 pm. Shiva will be at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Michael Resnicow, 162 Fuller St., Newton, MA. Remembrances may be made to the Judge Ernest I. Rotenberg Education Fund, C/O Edward C. Taft, VP, Durfee Attleboro Bank, 8 North Main St., Attleboro, MA 02703. Arrangements by the Levine Chapel, Brookline.