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From the Desk of the Attorney General of the State of Florida

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TRIBUTE In Recognition of Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice Gerald Kogan

From the Desk of the Attorney General of the State of Florida

Because the position of Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court rotates biennially, it is exceedingly difficult for a jurist to make much of an imprint in a single two-year term. But Justice Gerald Kogan was an exceptional Chief Justice, and it is fitting that upon his retirement you dedicate this issue of the *University of Miami Law Review* to him.

He served just that single two-year term at the helm of the judicial branch of Florida government, but he used the opportunity to make unprecedented changes in how the courts conduct their business. His overriding goal in these efforts was simple yet profound: to make the judiciary more accessible to the public it serves.

Chief Justice Kogan set this goal, and then attacked with all his energies. The results have been nothing short of spectacular, and all of us — current and future attorneys and the general public — will enjoy the benefits for years to come.

Chief Justice Kogan's high regard for the common person established him as a "people's justice." The underpinning of his judicial philosophy was the belief that in order for the citizenry to respect the courts, the cloak of judicial mystery must be shed at every possible opportunity. This philosophical orientation merged with the marvels of modern technology, and the result is a Supreme Court far more accessible to the people of Florida.

Chief Justice Kogan was instrumental in creating greater access to the Florida Supreme Court by fostering the development of the Court's official Web site on the Internet. This site provides the general public

with access to the Court's opinions, rules, briefs, and even oral arguments. Where the judiciary once shrouded itself behind such obscure legalisms as *res judicata* and *nunc pro tunc*, it now also features terms such as "Florida CyberCourt" and "arguments live on the Internet."

Always a strong advocate of education, Chief Justice Kogan oversaw the CyberCourt project, which provides educational materials for secondary school teachers and students and serves as an important resource for law-related education. The Court now identifies a Case of the Month and makes educational materials about that case available for use in Florida's public schools.

Thanks to Chief Justice Kogan's efforts, technology has brought the Court's proceedings to a larger segment of the public. Televised arguments are more common, and computer users anywhere in the world can listen in through the Court's Web page. The Court also accepts and even requires briefs and other filings in electronic format.

But the commitment to greater access to the courts did not end with technology. Among other things, Chief Justice Kogan championed the pro bono requirement for members of the Florida Bar, who are now required to report to the Court on how well they fulfill the voluntary pro bono standards.

Justice Kogan's opinions considered the effect the Court's ruling would have on the individual, always trying to balance the requirements of the State with the needs of its citizens. As Chief Justice, he performed a similar balancing act, maintaining an effective and efficient court system while also providing greater public access.

Throughout my association with Chief Justice Kogan he has embodied the highest degree of professionalism. History will remember him as one of Florida's most visionary Chief Justices, and he has left a lasting legacy for Florida's judiciary.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Butterworth
Attorney General
State of Florida