

# Loyola University Chicago Law Journal

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Volume 8

Issue 4 Summer 1977, Fair Employment Practices  
Symposium

Article 3

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1977

## John Cornelius Hayes

Daniel P. Ward Honorable  
*Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Illinois*

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### Recommended Citation

Daniel P. Ward Honorable, *John Cornelius Hayes*, 8 Loy. U. Chi. L. J. 674 (1977).  
Available at: <http://lawcommons.luc.edu/lucj/vol8/iss4/3>

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## John Cornelius Hayes

HONORABLE DANIEL P. WARD\*

John Cornelius Hayes will be long remembered in the profession he loved and served so well. A man of diverse interests and broad accomplishment, he was above all a legal educator. After graduating *magna cum laude* in liberal arts from Georgetown University, Justice Hayes attended Loyola University School of Law and joined its faculty shortly after his graduation in 1937. He won the deep affection and respect of thousands of students who sat in his classes in Trusts and Property. He was learned and articulate, courteous and kind. Over the years I have heard scores of alumni of the School of Law speak of him and there was never a word that was not warm and admiring. His excellence was recognized beyond his own school and St. John's University, Aquinas College, and Loras College conferred honorary degrees on him. If one who is not a graduate of The School of Law may speak of such things, I would say John Hayes certainly stands in the first rank of professors who have served Loyola's School of Law.

It was inevitable that he would be asked to serve as the school's dean and he acted in that capacity from 1959 to 1967. His work as dean was distinguished but he chose to return to his first love in the profession—teaching.

His background qualified him superbly for service in the Appellate Court and in 1972 the Supreme Court of Illinois appointed him to that court. His service on the court was outstanding. His new colleagues found him warm and cordial and they responded with friendship and deep respect. He brought to the appellate bench the same qualities of learning, thoroughness and preciseness that distinguished his work as a professor. His opinions were scholarly and lucid and reflected a careful and detailed consideration of issues. Justice Hayes' contribution to the Appellate Court of Illinois was impressive. It is to be regretted that he served on the court so brief a period.

It is not inappropriate to note that a more formal memoir than this might make reference to him as a distinguished Catholic layman, for certainly service to his church was an important part of his life. He was a member of the Catholic Lawyers Guild and the St.

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\* Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Illinois. LL.B., De Paul University College of Law, 1941.

Thomas More Association of America. He served as president of the Archdiocesan Union of Holy Name Societies of Chicago and held the important position of president of the National Council of Catholic Men from 1959 to 1961.

Society does not place monuments in public places to commemorate the service of lawyers and judges. There will be no public monument for John Hayes, but he will not be forgotten by our legal community. Thucydides recorded that Pericles in the magnificent funeral oration spoke of "a record unwritten with no tablet to preserve it, except that of the heart." His memory will be preserved in many hearts.

*Requiescat in pace.*

Justice John Cornelius Hayes, jurist, professor,  
scholar, religionist, humanitarian, soldier.

HONORABLE ROBERT J. DOWNING\*

My first acquaintanceship with Justice Hayes was in 1938 as one of his students at Loyola University night law school. At that time the quality of his character evidenced itself as a professor of law. Following law school, from not too far a distance, I observed his career as a professor, then Dean of the law school, as a Captain in the United States Air Force, and as an active layman in various Catholic lay organizations. He authored numerous articles concerning the law and parochial schools. His writings expressed a deep concern about the controversial subject of obscenity. Throughout his career he always displayed great humility. With this background there is no wonder that in the few years he served on the bench, he displayed an erudite, compassionate, and courageous record as a Justice of the Appellate Court of Illinois.

In October 1972, he was appointed to the Appellate Court of Illinois by our Supreme Court. He served on the Appellate Court until his untimely death in February 1977. He was assigned to the court's Second Division, serving as its presiding judge during the year 1974. We who enjoyed the delightful privilege of being closely associated with John during his years on the court will remember him for his

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\* Presiding Justice of the Second Division, Appellate Court of Illinois, First District. B.S.C., Creighton University, 1937; J.D., Loyola University of Chicago School of Law, 1942.