

**TRIBUTE
TO
THE HONORABLE JAMES H. COLEMAN, JR.**

*Honorable Charles E. Villanueva**

I am privileged to be one of those participating in this dedication. As a member of the last panel of the Appellate Division where Judge (now Justice) James R. Coleman, Jr. was the presiding judge, I can vouch for his dedication to the judiciary, the bar, and the public.

We all know that Justice Coleman rose from a childhood in segregated Virginia where education and other opportunities were separate and not equal. That did not deter him from his goal of obtaining an education and doing things to improve society, not only for African-Americans, but all people.

In addition to possessing a strong command and knowledge of the law, Justice Coleman has all the qualities that a judge should hold: patience, compassion, strong work ethic, well prepared, consensus builder, faithfulness, diligence, impartiality, and integrity. The Justice is dignified, courteous, scholarly, articulate, and family minded. Justice Coleman is a judge who inspires lawyers to work harder and do better without ever raising his voice. Justice Coleman's character serves, and will continue to serve, as a beacon to lawyers and laypeople.

Justice Coleman has had a varied career in private practice and in government, including the Attorney General's office wherein he distinguished himself before he became a trial judge over twenty years ago. It was no wonder that this accomplished lawyer quickly became a notable trial and appellate judge and now a justice of the Supreme Court of New Jersey. The Justice decides matters on a case-by-case basis following the law. Justice Coleman firmly believes in construing legislation to follow the legislative intent "if he can determine it." His eloquence is that of simplicity and clarity.

Justice Coleman has well earned the honors that have been bestowed upon him, including his appointment to the Supreme Court of New Jersey. The State and its citizens will be well served by his being a member of this prestigious court.

*Judge, Superior Court of New Jersey, Appellate Division.

