

1-1994

Raymond L. Jullivan--Lawyer, Justice, Scholar, and Teacher

UC Hastings College of the Law

Follow this and additional works at: https://repository.uchastings.edu/hastings_law_journal



Part of the [Law Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

UC Hastings College of the Law, *Raymond L. Jullivan--Lawyer, Justice, Scholar, and Teacher*, 46 HASTINGS L.J. 1 (1994).

Available at: https://repository.uchastings.edu/hastings_law_journal/vol46/iss1/1

This Tribute is brought to you for free and open access by the Law Journals at UC Hastings Scholarship Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in Hastings Law Journal by an authorized editor of UC Hastings Scholarship Repository. For more information, please contact wangangela@uchastings.edu.

A Tribute

Raymond L. Sullivan Lawyer, Justice, Scholar, and Teacher

Justice Sullivan is a native of San Francisco, born in 1907. He attended St. Ignatius College, which became the University of San Francisco in 1930. From St. Ignatius/USF, he earned his A.B., magna cum laude, in 1928, his J.D. in 1930, and his LL.M. in 1933. Years later, his alma mater recognized both his contributions to the law with an honorary LL.D. and the humanity he brought to his profession with the St. Thomas More Award. Before embarking on his career as a distinguished jurist, Justice Sullivan was in private practice in San Francisco for thirty-one years as a partner in the firm of Malone & Sullivan. In 1961 he was appointed to the California Court of Appeal, where he served as an Associate Justice for three years until he became Presiding Justice, a position he held until 1966.

In 1966 he was appointed to the Supreme Court of California as an Associate Justice. In his ten years on the Court, Justice Sullivan wrote over three hundred opinions, covering virtually every area of the law. He authored several landmark opinions that would have a significant impact on California, and the two most frequently mentioned are *Serrano v. Priest*, guaranteeing school children the constitutional right to equal educational opportunity, and *Li v. Yellow Cab Company*, abolishing the harsh contributory negligence rule and replacing it with the more equitable comparative negligence rule.

While on the Court, Justice Sullivan served as a member of the Judicial Council of the State of California. He has also served on advisory committees for the Revision of the Rules of Court for the Publication of Appellate Opinions and for the Publication of the Official Reports. His outstanding contributions were recognized by the California Trial Lawyers Association, which chose to honor him with the Appellate Judge of the Year Award.

When Justice Sullivan retired from the California Supreme Court in 1977, Hastings College of the Law was fortunate to secure his invaluable judicial and legal experience for the benefit of its students. Jus-

tice Sullivan joined the Hastings 65 Club faculty in 1978 and became one of the school's most popular professors, confirmed by his receipt of the Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award. After sharing his knowledge of the appellate process with students for the last fifteen years, Professor Sullivan retired from Hastings in 1993. News of his retirement was met with disappointment by those Hastings students who had looked forward to learning from and getting to know the warm, spirited lawyer, justice, scholar, and teacher who has served the legal community so admirably.