

HONORABLE HERMAN D. MICHELS

Born in Weehawken, New Jersey, October 16, 1927.

Graduated from Muhlenberg College (A.B.) in 1950 and from Rutgers Law School (LL.B.) in 1953. Admitted to practice law in New Jersey as an attorney in 1953 and as a counsellor-at-law in 1955. Also admitted to practice before the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey (1953), United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit (1956) and the United States Supreme Court (1956). Appointed to the Superior Court of New Jersey on February 1, 1972 by Governor William T. Cahill and assigned to the Law Division. Assigned to the Appellate Division on April 11, 1974. Reappointed as a Superior Court Judge February 1, 1979 by Governor Brendan T. Byrne. Appointed as a Presiding Judge of Appellate Division on September 8, 1980, and as the Presiding Judge for Administration of the Appellate Division on April 3, 1985. Authored over 3,000 Appellate Division opinions of which 400 were published.

Prior to appointment as Superior Court Judge, served as law clerk to Honorable G. Dixon Speakman, Essex County Assignment Judge, until December 31, 1953. From January 1, 1954 practiced law as an associate and then from January 1, 1963 as a partner in the firm of Toner, Crowley, Woelper & Vanderbilt and later Toner, Vanderbilt, Michels & Light, Newark, New Jersey. Thereafter, practiced law as senior partner in the firm of Michels & Schwartz, Newark, New Jersey.

Presently Counsel to Gibbons, Del Deo, Dolan, Griffinger & Vecchione law firm, working with the firm's Appellate and Alternative Dispute Resolution Practice groups serving as an arbitrator, mediator and Special Discovery Master. Attended and completed Mediation for Professionals conducted by the Center for Dispute Settlement in Washington, D.C. and the Advanced Arbitration Course conducted by the American Arbitration Association in New York, New York. A panel member of the CPR Institute for Dispute Resolution's New Jersey Panel of Distinguished Neutrals, the American Arbitration Association, the National Arbitration Forum, and ICE, International Court of Arbitration, North America. Certified by the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey as an arbitrator and mediator. Served as an arbitrator in a Singapore International Arbitration Center construction matter, and as a mediator and arbitrator in over three hundred matters in the past seven years. These matters included construction, contracts, commercial, business, insurance coverage, employment, legal and medical malpractice, personal injury, corporate and partnership dissolutions, and environmental damage, among others. Additionally, served as a court-appointed Special Discovery Master in major environmental insurance coverage, partnership, business, insurance fraud and other matters.

Past President of the Justice Marie L. Garibaldi American Inn of Court for Alternative Dispute Resolution. While attending Rutgers Law School, was a member of the Rutgers Law Review and awarded the Milton M. Unger Memorial Award and Municipal Corporation Law prize. Attended and completed the Appellate Judges' Seminar conducted by the Institute of Judicial Administration for New York University School of Law, and the Management Seminar conducted by the Institute for Court Management of the National Center for State Courts. Former chairman and lecturer, New Jersey Judicial College, and lecturer, Institute for Continuing Legal Education. Former trustee of the Essex County Bar Association.

A member of the Essex County, New Jersey and American Bar Associations, the American Judicature Society, a member of the Maritime Law Association of the United States, and a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. Former President and a member of the Executive Committee of the Council of Chief Judges of State Courts of Appeal. Served as Chair of the Public Access Subcommittee of the New Jersey Judiciary Information Systems Policy Committee (1996), New Jersey Ethics Commission (Michels Commission) (1993), Supreme Court Committee on Court Reporting (1991), and New Jersey Supreme Court Judiciary Drug Abuse Study Group (1987).

Served in the United States Navy in 1945-46.