

Ralph Given

(- 28 Feb 1946)

Given. Ralph, Sr. On Thursday February 28, 1946 at Doctors Hospital, Ralph Given, Sr., beloved husband of the late Mary Ida Given and father of Harvey T. and Ralph Given, jr. Private funeral service will be held at his late residence, 3716 Morrison street n.w. on Monday, March 4 at 11 a.m. Interment at Congressional Cemetery.



Judge Given.

The Evening Star, November 19, 1920, p. 2

Ralph Given Recovers

Ralph Given, assistant United States attorney, who has been suffering for the past three weeks with influenza, has recovered, and it is expected will be back at his work in the Police court by the last of this week. Mr. Given was at first threatened with pneumonia, but it developed to be a case of influenza. He is now up and about his home, 3716 Morrison street, awaiting suitable weather to go out.

The Washington Post, November 11, 1928, p. 8

Ralph Given Made Judge By Coolidge

Assistant District Attorney to Mount Bench in Police Court This Week Felicitations Are Many

Appointment of Assistant District Attorney Ralph Given to be a Police Court judge was made yesterday by President Calvin Coolidge. Mr. Given will fill the vacancy created on the Police Court bench by the death of Judge George H. Macdonald last summer.

After being notified of his appointment, Mr. Given went into conference with Judges Gus A. Schuldt, Isaac R. Hitt and John P. McMahon, of the Police Court, and it was decided that he would take his place on the bench this week.

For the last 25 years Mr. Given has been connected with the district attorney's office. In recent years he has been in charge of the prosecution branch in Police Court.

News of his appointment spread rapidly at the court, and he received many congratulations. Although he was not a candidate for the post, Mr. Given's appointment had the indorsement of numerous prominent attorneys of the Capital.

District Attorney Leo A. Rover declared yesterday that he was undecided whom he would appoint to fill the vacancy created by Mr. Given's elevation. It is considered likely that he will choose Assistant District Attorney Joseph Bruce to take charge of the prosecutor's office in Police Court.

The Washington Post, November 14, 1928, p. 22

Given to Become Judge Tomorrow

Oath Will Be Administered to Assistant Prosecutor by Justice Gordon

Assistant District Attorney Ralph Given, newly appointed Police Court Judge, will be sworn into his new office tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock in the Police Court. The oath will be administered by Justice Peyton Gordon, of the District Supreme Court.

Mr. Given, for the past 25 years in charge of the prosecutor's office in Police Court, was chosen Saturday by President Coolidge to fill the vacancy on the Police Court bench caused by the death last summer of Judge George H. Macdonald.

Judge Robert E. Mattingly, of District Municipal Court, who has been sitting in Police Court since the illness of Judge Macdonald, will return to Municipal Court following Mr. Given's induction into the judgeship.

District Attorney Leo A. Rover declared yesterday that he had not definitely decided who would succeed Mr. Given in charge of the Police Court prosecutions. Assistant District Attorney Joseph C. Bruce, who has been Mr. Given's first assistant in the office, may be his successor.

The Washington Post, July 10. 1935, p. 5

Casey Is Named Given Successor As D.C. Judge

Miss Raedy Nominated for Municipal Bench; Aukum, Clayton Reappointed

A slender, soft-spoken man, his 67 years well hidden behind sharp, blue eyes and a cheerful smile, sat alone in his office at Police Court yesterday. Judge Ralph Given was looking toward the end of long judicial service – 42 years as clerk, prosecutor and judge.

A few hours earlier, President Roosevelt, in a surprise announcement, named Walter J. Casey, local attorney, as Judge Given's successor on the Police Court bench. Since last December, when his 6-year term expired, Judge Given has been waiting.

"I'll either be reappointed or out of a job," he once said.

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The Evening Star, March 1, 1946, p. A5

Ralph Given, 77, Dies Was Veteran Judge of Police Court Here

Ralph Given, 77 former Police Court judge, died at Doctors Hospital last night, after an illness of three weeks.

Judge Given spent 42 years in Police Court work, having gone to the court at the age of 18 as a clerk in the office of the United States attorney. He became an assistant United States attorney and was appointed to the bench in 1929. During his tenure he is estimated to have disposed of 100,000 cases.

President Roosevelt did not reappoint him in 1935. Walter J. Casey, now Municipal Court judge, was named to fill the vacancy.

In 1942, Judge Given retired from active duty, leaving his position as secretary of the Committee on Admissions and Grievances of District Court which he had held for nearly 40 years.

A native of Washington, he attended the Franklin School here and received his degree in law at Georgetown Law School in 1899. A year later he received a master's degree in law there.

He was a member of the District Bar Association, a former member of the Board of Trade and was a member of the Oldest Inhabitants and All Saints' Episcopal Church.

Surviving are two sons, Ralph Given, jr., an attorney with the Reconstruction Finance Corp., and Harvey T. Given, with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and two grandchildren, all of Washington.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Monday at his late home, 3716 Morrison street N.W. Burial will be in Congressional Cemetery.

Hugh H. Obear, president of the District Bar Association, appointed the following committee to represent the association at the funeral: Charles W. Arth, Charles C. Claggett, Michael J. Colbert, E. Hilton Jackson, Crandal Mackey and Joseph T. Sherier.