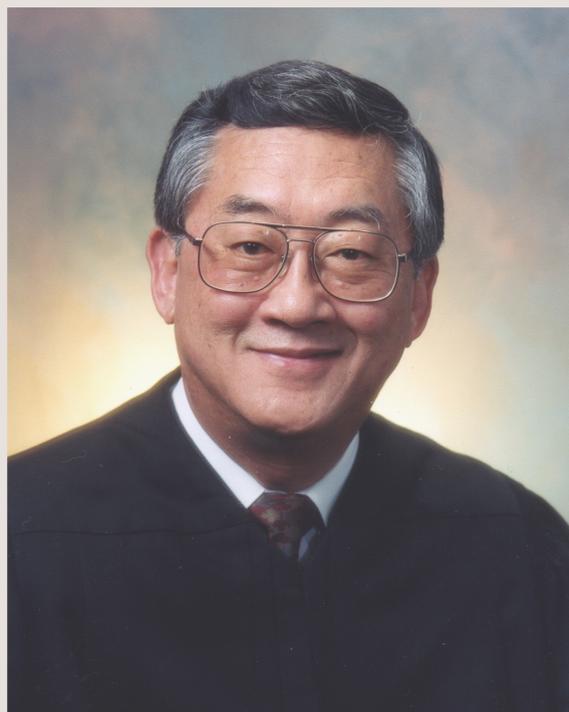


RONALD T.Y. MOON

SEPTEMBER 4, 1940 – JULY 4, 2022



“Public service is the rent we pay for the space we occupy on earth.”

- CJ Moon's oft-repeated quote by his father, Duk "Duke" Man Moon



Courthouses constructed under Chief Justice Moon, left to right: Pu'uhonua Kaulike Building (Kaua'i), Ronald T.Y. Moon Judiciary Complex (Kapolei), Abner Pākī Building (Kāne'ohe), and Hale Kaulike (Hilo).

Chief Justice Ronald T.Y. Moon grew up above his parents' tailor shop in Wahiawā, where they instilled in him the importance of public service. As a grandson of immigrants and the first Korean–American chief justice in the nation, Chief Justice Moon was a staunch advocate for access to justice, civic education, and judicial independence.

Chief Justice Moon graduated law school in 1965 from the University of Iowa. After working as a Honolulu prosecutor and then in the private sector, he was appointed as a circuit court judge in 1982. Later, in 1990, he was appointed to be an associate justice of the Hawai'i Supreme Court before being sworn in as chief justice on March 31, 1993.

During his tenure, the Hawai'i Supreme Court published many significant decisions, including the first ruling in the nation to recognize a right to same-sex marriage, and protecting Native Hawaiian beneficiaries' right to sue to enforce the Hawaiian home lands trust. Also under his leadership, the Hawai'i State Judiciary created various specialty courts, including Drug Court, Girls Court, and Zero to Three Court, which allow the judiciary and stakeholders to work together to provide better support for some of our community's most vulnerable populations. Chief Justice Moon is fondly remembered for his deep love and dedicated service to the people of Hawai'i.

