

The Honorable Paul T. Douglas

Judge Douglas was born January 6, 1926 in Lake Worth to Calvin Chapman and Mary Baskin Douglas. He was a member of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, the Palm Beach Post #12 of the American Legion and the Tusawilla Club, all of West Palm Beach.

Judge Douglas was considered to be one of the most experience Probate Judges in Florida. He attended the University of Florida and graduated from Stetson University Law School in 1950. Shortly after, he became associated with the law firm of Alley, Drew, Burns and Middleton. He opened his own law firm in late 1951. He was a practicing attorney in Palm Beach County for 11 years before his election as County Judge in 1960, and served as vice-president of the Florida County Judges Association. Judge Douglas was President-Elect of the Palm Beach County Bar Association at the time of his election to Judge in 1960. He later became a Circuit judge, until he retired from the bench in 1985. He then went back to practicing law, specializing in Will, Estates and Trusts.

A second generation Florida and a WW II Air Force veteran, Judge Douglas was a pioneer in the field of mental health, having been a member of the Palm Beach Psychiatric Clinic. He authorized legislation in the area of mental health and appeared before several committees at the state capital. He was a graduate of the National Judicial College in Nevada and had attended special legal training programs for Judges at Harvard University. Judge Douglas performed more than 20,000 marriage ceremonies in Palm Beach County and authored and worked for the passage of legislation creating the first juvenile and domestic relations court in Florida. As a Judge for over 24 years, Judge Douglas was experienced in all areas of law including juvenile, landlord/tenant, probate, competency, civil and criminal cases, including a number of first-degree murder trials.

He was a member of Phi Kappa Phi and of Phi Alpha Delta legal fraternity. He other affiliations include membership in the American, Florida State and Palm Beach Bar Association, in the West Palm Beach Junior Chamber of Commerce and American Legion.

Judge Douglas was married to the former Jo Humphrey of Lake Worth. They had two daughters, Lorraine Douglas-Meyer, Ph.D., a psychologist of Rock Hill, SC and Paula Douglas, M.S., of Lake Worth, an administrator for the Palm Beach County School District. He also had two grandchildren from daughter Lorraine- Jason Camp and Julie (Camp) Hernan. He later divorced and married Blanche (Patterson) Douglas of Jupiter, Florida. In his younger years he was an avid golfer. He also was a dog lover, having dogs Chips, Coco, Bebe, and Gigi over the course of his lifetime. He passed away on Saturday, December 18, 1999 at the age of 73.