

JAMES SAMUEL COLEMAN, JR.
Associate Justice - 1957-1975

BORN: June 8, 1906; Mobile, Alabama
DIED: August 24, 1987; Montgomery, Alabama

The grandson of an associate justice of the Alabama Supreme Court, James Samuel Coleman, Jr., graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1927, attended the University of Alabama Law School, and was admitted to practice in 1934. He practiced law in Eutaw from 1934 to 1942 and taught at Marion Military Institute and Southern Military Academy.

During World War II, Coleman was a lieutenant commander in the Navy. He taught at Tulane and at the University of Oklahoma and served on Guam.

Coleman's career in public service began with his election in 1946 to a four-year term in the Alabama Senate, representing Greene and Hale Counties. He was elected in 1954 to serve another term and became a dominant figure and force in the Senate. In 1955 the Capitol Press Corps voted him outstanding senator and best parliamentarian.

In 1956 Coleman was elected to serve on the Alabama Supreme Court, succeeding Justice Norman T. Spann. He was reelected in 1962 and in 1968 and retired in 1975 at the end of his third term in office.

James Samuel Coleman, Jr., married Eleanor Ruth Montgomery of Eutaw in 1933; she died in 1959. They had one son. In 1965 he married Mary Ruth Hobbs of Kittanning, Pennsylvania.