

RALPH D. COOK

Associate Justice - 1993-2001

BORN: April 29, 1944 - Birmingham, Alabama

Ralph D. Cook, son of Joe and Nannie Cook, was educated in the public schools of Jefferson County, and earned his B.S. at Tennessee State University in Nashville, Tennessee, and his J.D. from Howard University School of Law in Washington, D.C.

In 1976, Justice Cook was appointed Dean of Miles Law School, Birmingham, and remained in that position until 1990. He also taught at San Jose State University and Cabrillo College in California, and Miles College in Birmingham. He served as an assistant district attorney in Bessemer, and was engaged in the private practice of law.

Justice Cook was elected as a judge in the district court and served in the Family Court of Jefferson County, Bessemer Division. Appointed circuit judge of the 10th Judicial Circuit, Bessemer Division in 1981, he was twice elected to that position. Justice Cook was appointed Associate Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court in 1993, and was elected to that position in 1994, serving until his retirement in 2001.

Justice Cook is a member of multiple bar associations, and a former president of the Alabama Lawyers Association. He is an elected member of the American Law Institute, and has been recognized for his work and received awards from community organizations, colleges, and churches throughout the state of Alabama.

Justice Cook is a member of the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. He is married to the former Charlsie Davis of Jefferson County, and they have three children: Kimberly, Nakela, and Ralph, Jr.

*Portrait by JIE RUAN
Oil on canvas, circa 2009*