

## **JAMES SAMUEL COLEMAN, JR.**

Associate Justice: 1957-1975

BORN: June 08, 1906; Mobile, Alabama

DIED: August 24, 1987; Mobile, Alabama



***Portrait by WOODI ISHMAEL,  
American, 1914-1995  
Oil on canvas***

A native of Mobile, Alabama, James Samuel Coleman, Jr., son of James Samuel Coleman, Sr. and Mary Bell Peteet Coleman, attended the public schools of Eutaw, Alabama and Marion Institute. In 1927, he graduated from the United States Naval Academy. He attended the University of Alabama Law School and was admitted to the Alabama State Bar in 1934. Coleman, Jr., practiced law in Eutaw from 1934 to 1942 and taught at Marion Military Institute as well as Southern Military Academy.

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

Coleman Jr., was elected in 1946 to a four-year term in the Alabama Senate, and was elected in 1954 to serve another term and became a dominant figure and force in the Senate. In 1956, he was elected to serve on the Supreme Court of Alabama and he was re-elected in 1962 and in 1968. He retired in 1975 at the end of his third term in office.

Coleman married Elanor Ruth Montgomery in 1933. She died in 1959. They had one son named James Samuel III. Coleman married Mary Ruth Hobbs in 1965.

***Junius Moore Riggs Collection***

***Location: Law Library Reference Area, North End East Side, Heflin-Torbert Judicial Building***