

RALPH DELANO COOK

Associate Justice: 1993-2001

BORN: 1944; Birmingham, Alabama



***Portrait by Jie Ruan,
Chinese, 1962 -
Oil on canvas***

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

In 1976, Cook was appointed Dean of Miles Law School, Birmingham, Alabama and remained in that position until 1990. He 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 had a law practice.

Cook was elected as a judge in the district court, and he served in the Family Court of Jefferson County, Bessemer Division. He was appointed circuit judge of the 10th Judicial Circuit, Bessemer Division in 1981. He was twice elected to that position. Cook was appointed to the Supreme Court of Alabama as an associate justice in 1993, and was elected to that position in 1994. He was defeated in 2001. Cook is a member of multiple bar associations, and a former president of the Alabama Lawyers Association.

Cook married Charlsie Davis and they have three children: Kimberley, Nakela, and Ralph, Jr.

Junius Moore Riggs Collection

Location: Clerk's Office Hallway, 3rd Floor, Heflin-Torbert Judicial Building