

STATEMENT OF FIRST CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS REGARDING PASSING OF JUDGE JUAN R. TORRUELLA

BOSTON (October 26, 2020)—The United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit mourns the passing of Judge Juan R. Torruella and expresses deepest sympathy to his family, especially his wife, Judith, and their four children. Judge Torruella died on Monday, October 26, 2020, at the age of 87. Judge Torruella celebrated his 36th year on the First Circuit Court of Appeals on October 4, 2020.

"All of the judges and employees of our court are profoundly saddened by the passing of our colleague and friend Judge Juan Torruella. In his almost five decades as a federal district court judge and appellate judge, Judge Torruella was a wise decision-maker, a brilliant scholar, and a passionate participant in the pursuit of justice. As a judge, his judicial legacy in the First Circuit and Puerto Rico will remain unsurpassed. As a friend, my wife, Marie and I will especially remember the many kindnesses and warm hospitality that he and Judy offered us during our visits to Puerto Rico. Our hearts go out to Judy and the Torruella family," First Circuit Chief Judge Jeffrey R. Howard said.

Judge Bruce M. Selya remarked, "Judge Torruella was a jurist of immense stature and a fierce fighter for the rights of Puerto Ricans and for their place in American society. He never hesitated to advocate for a position in which he believed, and his advocacy was always staunch."

"Judge Torruella had an extraordinary mind, a broad understanding of much of the world, and a true interest in all of his surroundings. He was a man of many talents, both on land and on sea. He was never happier than when on his boat sailing to some far-off place. Judge Torruella will be sorely missed by those of us who worked with him for so many years," said Judge Norman H. Stahl.

Judge Sandra L. Lynch said, "Judge Torruella was often called a man for all seasons. He was a United States Circuit Judge, an Olympic sailing competitor, President of the Olympic Court of Arbitration for Sport, a leader in the Caribbean and South American judicial circles, and a loving father and husband. His judicial passion was in securing and advancing the interests of Puerto Rico. His loss will be felt."

"Juan was a dear friend. My wife, Nancy, and I spent many wonderful times with Juan and his wife, Judy, on our visits to Puerto Rico. Juan had a deep love for Puerto Rico and he enjoyed showing us why. His incredible array of interests made him a delightful companion. As a colleague, he was the best; challenging but respectful, willing to listen, but, in the end, firm in his convictions. His long years on the court never diminished his zest for the work. He knew it was a privilege to do the work of the court and he honored that privilege to the end of his remarkable life. We always say that no one is irreplaceable. That is not true of Juan. I cherished my time with him and I will cherish his memory," remarked Judge Kermit V. Lipez.

Judge O. Rogeriee Thompson said, "Shortly after I became a member of the First Circuit, I came to appreciate why Judge Torruella was considered a renaissance man. Over the years, it became clear to me why he was so beloved in unparalleled ways. He was characterized by his many interests; including his love of sports and sailing and his love of art and stamp collecting. He also

had an absolutely wonderful sense of humor. Judge Torruella's passing is a devastating loss for our circuit; everything about him will be missed."

Judge William J. Kayatta stated, "Juan Torruella tried every day to find in the law an instrument of justice for all, including those who lived in his beloved Puerto Rico. I will miss him greatly as a colleague and a friend."

"One only had to walk through the streets of old San Juan with Judge Torruella after a sitting to appreciate the high regard in which he was held. That walk could take a while, given all the people who wanted to stop to pay their respects. They knew his immense impact on the law, his commitment to justice and the judiciary, and his exemplary character. As did his colleagues. He was a great judge who lived a great life. I will miss him dearly, and I offer my deepest sympathies to his wife, Judy, and his family," said Judge David J. Barron.

Judge Torruella was born in Old San Juan, Puerto Rico on June 7, 1933. He graduated from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School in 1954 with a B.S. and received his law degree from Boston University School of Law in 1957. Judge Torruella's educational pursuits continued long into his career. In 1984, he obtained his LL.M. from the University of Virginia School of Law and his M.P.A. from the University of Puerto Rico Graduate School of Public Administration. In 2003, Judge Torruella received a Master of Studies in Modern European History from Magdalen College, Oxford University.

After graduating from law school, Judge Torruella was a law clerk to the Honorable Pedro Pérez-Pimentel of the Supreme Court of Puerto Rico, from 1957 to 1958. Then, Judge Torruella was an attorney at the National Labor Relations Board, 24th Region, until 1960. Thereafter, until 1974, Judge Torruella worked in private practice. On December 20, 1974, Judge Torruella was appointed to the U.S. District Court for the District of Puerto Rico, after having been nominated by President Gerald Ford. He served as chief judge of the District of Puerto Rico from 1982 to 1984, when he was appointed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit, following his nomination by President Ronald Reagan. Judge Torruella was the first Hispanic judge to serve on the First Circuit Court of Appeals and was chief judge of the court from 1994 to 2001.

Judge Torruella received numerous awards and honors during his career, such as an Honorary LL.D. from St. John's University in 1995, the Boston University School of Law Alumni Award also in 1995, and an Honorary LL.D. from Roger Williams University in 1998.

Judge Torruella was a competitive sailor and competed for Puerto Rico in four Olympic sailing events between 1964 and 1976. He also served as President of the Court of Arbitration for Sport, an organization that settles disputes in competitive sports. Judge Torruella was married to his wife, Judith, for more than 65 years.