



The Trustees and staff of The Fund for New Jersey honor the legacy of our longtime Trustee U.S. District Judge Dickinson Debevoise, who died August 14, 2015. We extend our deepest condolences to Judge Debevoise's four daughters and their families.

Judge Debevoise served as a Trustee of The Fund for New Jersey for 30 years, from 1981 to 2012, and contributed enormously to The Fund's deliberations. His intellectual acuity coupled with his deeply held moral convictions yielded extraordinary wisdom.

Judge Debevoise influenced public policy in New Jersey on issues ranging from housing and criminal justice to civil rights and urban issues. After an active career at the private bar, he was nominated by President Jimmy Carter to serve as a U.S. District Court Judge for the District of New Jersey, a role he fulfilled with distinction for 15 years. He served a further 21 years as a senior status judge. Judge Debevoise was widely regarded as a model jurist.

His unwavering commitment to civil rights included service in 1964, as Chairman of the Essex County, NJ Bar Association Civil Rights Committee and as a member of the Lawyers Constitutional Defense Committee, through which he and other New Jersey lawyers represented civil rights workers participating in the Mississippi Freedom Summer. He helped found the Newark Legal Services Project, and served as its president. Judge Debevoise chaired the New Jersey Clients' Security Fund, the Governor's Workmen's Compensation Study Committee, the New Jersey Supreme Court's Disciplinary Review Board, and the Lawyers Advisory Committee of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. He served on several other boards, including the Hospital Center of Orange, Williams College, Ramapo College of New Jersey, and was a founding trustee of the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice.

Judge Debevoise was a towering figure, both respected and loved by his friends and colleagues. We at The Fund are grateful to have worked with him, learned from him, and walked with him in his work to make New Jersey – and the country – a place in which ideals of justice and equity were made real and meaningful for all residents. He will be missed by all of us at The Fund for New Jersey.