

**STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA**  
**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**

**At Charleston**

**A PROCLAMATION**

**By the Governor**

**WHEREAS**, Arthur Recht was born on the fourth day of February, Nineteen Hundred Thirty-eight, the son of Albert and Ethel Wientraub Recht; and

**WHEREAS**, Arthur Recht graduated from the University of Pittsburgh, then received his law degree from West Virginia University in Nineteen Hundred Sixty-two; and

**WHEREAS**, Arthur Recht was initially appointed to the First Judicial Circuit in Nineteen Hundred Eighty-one and was elected in Nineteen Hundred Eight-two, he left the bench in late Nineteen Hundred Eighty-three to practice law in Wheeling, he then was appointed by then-Governor Gaston Caperton to the West Virginia Supreme Court to fill the unexpired term of retired Justice Richard Neeley in May, Nineteen Hundred Ninety-five and ended in Nineteen Hundred Ninety-six, in Nineteen Hundred Ninety-six he was again appointed to the First Judicial Circuit and was elected in Nineteen Hundred Ninety-eight, Two Thousand, and Two Thousand Eight; and

**WHEREAS**, Arthur Recht is best known for the “The Recht Decision,” the case began in Nineteen Hundred Seventy-five when a Lincoln County parent filed a class-action lawsuit alleging students were not getting a “thorough and efficient” education as the West Virginia Constitution requires and in Nineteen Hundred Eight-two he issued a decision setting education standards and in Nineteen Hundred eighty-four, the *Pauley v. Bailey* case, the West Virginia Supreme Court approved the Education Department’s Master Plan for Public Education; and

**WHEREAS**, Arthur Recht retired on the Thirty-first day of January, Two Thousand Twelve, he has been a senior status judge and was recalled to service several times, including recently when Chief Justice Workman appointed him to the First Judicial Circuit on the Fifth day

of September, Two Thousand Eighteen, filling the vacancy left by the retirement of Judge James Mezzone; and

**WHEREAS**, Arthur Recht served as a member of the Governor's Committee on Selection of Judicial Candidates from Circuit Court, Chairman of the State Bar's Committee on Legal Ethics, President of the Judicial Association, he was a member of the Mass Litigation Panel, senior status justice for several years to preside over FELA Asbestos Litigation and the Tobacco Litigation, he received the Two Thousand Eight Judge of the Year Award from the West Virginia Association of Justice and received the Distinguished West Virginian award in Nineteen Hundred Ninety-seven; and

**WHEREAS**, Senior Status Judge Arthur Recht, a committed and respected public servant and a devoted husband, father, grandfather, father-in-law, brother, uncle and friend, died on the Twenty-eighth day of October, Two Thousand Eighteen; and

**WHEREAS**, Senior Status Judge Arthur Recht is survived by his loving wife of 56 years, Karen Markham Recht, two sons, Jason M Recht (Cynthia Cornish) and Judd S Recht (Julie); his grandchildren, Joni and Austin, one brother, Marvin Recht, one sister, Cherrie Gnazzo; he was preceded in death by his father, Albert, mother, Ethel Wientraub; and

**WHEREAS**, the citizens of the State of West Virginia and friends and associates of Senior Status Judge Arthur Recht desire to recognize his dedicated public service to the Great State of West Virginia, and to acknowledge his valuable contributions to the State.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, JIM JUSTICE**, by virtue of the authority vested in me as the Governor of the State of West Virginia, do hereby **ORDER** that, in commemoration of the distinguished life and service of West Virginia Senior Status Judge Arthur Recht, the United States and West Virginia State flag displayed at the Capitol Complex in Charleston, West Virginia, and at all State facilities throughout Ohio and Marshall County, West Virginia, shall be lowered to half-staff from dawn to dusk on the First day of November, Two Thousand Eighteen, the day of services celebrating his life.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the great seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.



**By the Governor**

**DONE** at the Capitol in the City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this Thirty-first day of October, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Eighteen, and in the One Hundred Fifty-Sixth year of the State.

*Jim Justice*  
**GOVERNOR**

*Mac Warner*  
**SECRETARY OF STATE**