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Justice Alan B. Handler To Retire From the Supreme Court

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The Supreme Court announced today that Senior Associate Justice Alan B. Handler, 67, a member of the Supreme Court for more than twenty-two years, has informed Governor Christine Todd Whitman that he will retire effective September 1, 1999.

First appointed to the Superior Court in 1968 by then-Governor Richard J. Hughes, Justice Handler was assigned to the Appellate Division in 1973. He resigned from the bench in 1976 to serve as counsel to Governor Brendan Byrne. In March 1977, he joined then-Chief Justice Richard J. Hughes on the State's highest court. He is the longest-serving member of the current Court.

During his tenure on the Court, Justice Handler has authored hundreds of opinions covering virtually every area of the law. His opinions are universally regarded as scholarly, astute, and carefully reasoned, reflecting his humanistic approach to the cases that come before the Court.

"Justice Handler's intellect, personal integrity, and dedication to the Judiciary as an institution are unmatched. His work is equal to that of the greatest of the jurists who have preceded him on the Court," says Chief Justice Deborah T. Poritz, who has served with Justice Handler since her own appointment in 1996. "In addition to relying on Justice Handler's outstanding analytical abilities, the members of the Court have repeatedly found that his delightful sense of humor has eased the stresses that are inherent in the deliberative process. We will miss his wisdom and his humor."

Justice Handler served as deputy attorney general from 1961 to 1964 and as first assistant attorney general from 1964 to 1968. He attended Newark Academy and Princeton University, where he was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, and graduated magna cum laude in 1953 from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. He received his law degree from Harvard Law School in 1956 and was admitted to the New Jersey bar the same year.

Justice Handler is married to the former Rose Marie Kudroch. He has three daughters: Julia, Carolyn, and Nancy. His stepdaughter, Kara Foxe, is a prosecutor in Middlesex County. His stepson, Sean Foxe, is a prosecutor in Hunterdon County.