

Political Hopefuls

Noel Manoukian Seeks Re-Election To Nevada Supreme Court



Manoukian, 46, has been a Supreme Court Justice since 1977, when he was selected by former Governor Mike O'Callaghan to replace the retiring Justice David Zenoff. In 1978, Justice Manoukian was elected to retain his Supreme Court position and serve a full six-year term. In that election, Manoukian defeated his opponent by more than a 2 to 1 margin, winning in every county.

In his announcement statement, Manoukian said, "I see this election as being of vital importance to the people of the state, and an opportunity for them to decide whether the court will continue to have a strong, conservative voice or whether it will become more liberal.

"The record of Noel Manoukian is clear for the voters to examine and determine for themselves if the conservative approach to judicial decisions is the direction they want for the court in the future. Two major cases clearly demonstrate my attitude.

"In 1978 I stood alone against the other four justices on the Supreme Court in opposing the

release on bail pending appeal of Lawrence Arvey, the candy store owner who had been convicted and jailed for sexually assaulting a nine year old girl. The majority of the court, with I alone in opposition allowed bail and thus enabled Arvey to flee the country. He is still a fugitive today and has never had to pay the penalty for his heinous crimes.

"And three years ago I argued in a dissent to a procedure order that convicted child molestor Seymour Husney should not have his sentence reduced from life in prison to five year's probation," Manoukian said.

From 1973 to 1977, Manoukian served as district court judge in Churchill, Douglas and Lyon counties. He was appointed to that position by Governor O'Callaghan, following 10 years of successful private practice. Manoukian began his legal career as a Deputy District Attorney for Douglas County.

During his first year as Chief Justice, the Nevada Supreme Court decided 25% more cases in 1983 than it did in 1982. The Court completed work on a record 849 cases during 1983, compared to 676 cases which were decided in 1982. This high rate of disposition continued in the face of a 14% increase in appeals filed during 1983.

Manoukian set the stage for the coming campaign in challenging his opponent, Cliff Young, who said he was running to "bring more harmony" to the court.

"I do not deny that I have stood alone on the court on some of the thousands of decisions I have been involved with in the past seven years. But standing alone does not mean any less public confidence in the court, as my election opponent has indicated.

"I believe that's in the best interest of the court, the direction of the law, or the people of this state. I believe the citizens have a right to vigorous debate on issues presented to the court for review and for these issues to be decided not simply on matters of law or procedure, but on what is right," Manoukian said.

As a Supreme Court Justice, Manoukian has emphasized improving administrative procedures to speed up and streamline the delivery of justice in Nevada. The Chief Justice has also proposed an amendment to the Supreme Court Rules which establishes a time limit for all judges to decide a case following its submission to the judge for consideration. This proposal has received the unanimous support of the Judicial Education Council.

During the 1983 Legislature, Manoukian was instrumental in the adoption of a bill which permits

district courts to adopt a mandatory arbitration program. Such a program would speed the decision-making process and reduce the cost of litigation to both the parties and the taxpayers.

Throughout his legal career Manoukian has continued to improve his knowledge of the law through many professional education activities. These have included: member and chairman of the Nevada Judicial Education Council; attendance at the Southwestern Judicial Conference for the past eight years; attended the American Bar Association Appellate Judges Seminar each year since 1979; and he has worked closely with the National Judicial College at the University of Nevada, Reno since 1975.

Manoukian has lived in the Reno area since childhood. He attended Reno High School, where he was an All-State football player and team captain for two years. He received a Bachelor of Arts from the University of the Pacific in Stockton, which in 1983, honored him as its Outstanding Alumnus for Public Service. Justice Manoukian completed his formal education at the University of Santa Clara School of Law, and in 1978 that school awarded him the Edwin J. Owens Lawyer of the Year award. The same year the Chief Justice also received the Jurist of the Year award from the Las Vegas Chapter of the City of Hope.

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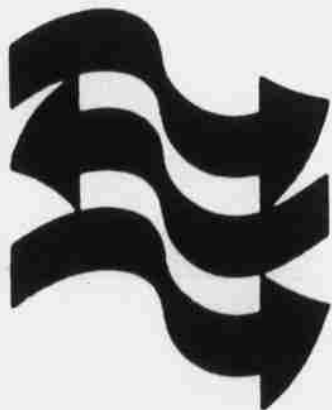
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