

George Kaufman

(- 1 Sep 1990)

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George Kaufman, Labor Lawyer, Dies at 59

George Kaufman, 59, a labor and appellate lawyer who specialized in representing the union side in cases before the Supreme Court, died of multiple myeloma September 1 at George Washington University Hospital.

Mr. Kaufman was a partner in the Washington law firm of Dickstein, Shapiro & Morin and a senior legal adviser to the AFL-CIO, which he had represented along with its affiliate national and international unions before the Supreme Court since 1975.

He wrote briefs in more than 100 major labor law cases before the Supreme Court, many of them involving protection of workers' rights under the National Labor Relations Act and other federal laws.

Mr. Kaufman represented the labor side in Supreme Court cases that involved the delineation of First Amendment rights of public employees, the extension of labor union exemption from antitrust laws, the constitutional status of labor picketing and provisions of the secondary boycott laws.

He was author of 'Mr. Justice Black and the Federal rules of Civil procedure,' a chapter in the 1967 book "Hugo Black and the Supreme Court." He was known both for a felicity of expression and an encyclopedic knowledge of the Supreme Court that included an ability to recall precise volume and page citations for thousands of Supreme court cases.

A resident of Washington, Mr. Kaufman was born in Vienna, Austria. He immigrated to New York with his parents after the Nazi takeover of Austria in March 1938. He graduated from the University of Chicago and its law school, then served in the Army during the mid-1950s.

He moved to Washington and joined the law firm of Van Arkel & Kaiser in 1958 after working in New York for the Legislative Drafting Research Fund at Columbia University. He had been a partner at Dickstein, Shapiro & Morin since 1981.

Mr. Kaufman was a former member of the board of directors of Capitol Hill Day School and River Park Mutual Homes.

Survivors include his wife, Gale Kaufman, and two children, Nancy and David Kaufman, all of Washington.