

PRESS RELEASE



TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

Office of the High Commissioner

Saipan, Mariana Islands

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FURBER WINS ATTORNEY GENERAL'S AWARD

Saipan, Mariana Islands, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, May 1 . . . The Honorable Edward P. Furber, Chief Justice of the Trust Territory, was honored today in Truk when he was named the recipient of the 1967 Attorney General's Award, it was announced by Attorney General Robert K. Shoecraft.

The presentation of the Award by Truk District Administrator Alan M. MacQuarrie on behalf of the Attorney General culminated the Law Day ceremonies at Moen, the District Center of Truk District.

In a letter to the Chief Justice, Mr. Shoecraft said in part: "It gives me a great pleasure to name you as the recipient of the Attorney General's Award for 1967, thus placing your name among these outstanding men of justice who have previously been so honored."

The Attorney General said the Award has been kept in complete secrecy from the Chief Justice until today, because with his usual "modest and self-effacing manner as in previous years" he would have preferred that someone else receive the Award. "We felt, however, that your many years of dedicated and outstanding service to the people of the Trust Territory, your unceasing devotion to the cause of justice and the protection of the fundamental rights of the people, and your almost single-handed raising of the Judicial branch of our government to its highly respected present

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status, would justify us in overruling your objections and bringing your great achievements to the attention of all of Micronesia," the Attorney General said in the letter.

Created in 1963, the Attorney General's Award is presented each year to a judge, lawyer, trial assistant, or law enforcement officer as a public recognition of his outstanding service to the people of the Trust Territory in the field of law.

Appointed Chief Justice of the Trust Territory in 1948, Judge Furber almost single-handedly organized and upgraded the judiciary system in Micronesia. All Micronesian District Presiding Judges, Community Court Judges, Clerks of Courts, and trial assistants have been under the tutelage of Justice Furber at one time or another during his nearly 20 years of service in the Trust Territory.

Born in 1898 in Newton, Mass., Judge Furber received his A.B. and LL.B degrees in 1918 and 1922, respectively, from Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass. From 1918 he taught at various schools and institutions, including Harvard, until 1922 when he was admitted to the Massachusetts Bar and subsequently worked for several private firms. He went into a private practice in Boston from 1926 to 1942 when he joined the U.S. Navy as Lieutenant (S.G.) and was honorably discharged in 1951 as a Navy Commander. Judge Furber also served as Adviser to the U.S. Delegation to the United Nations Trusteeship Council from 1949 through 1951.

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He is a member of the American Bar Association, Federal Bar Association, Middlesex Bar Association, and Boston Bar Association. Mrs. Furber, the former Ruth Haynes, and the Chief Justice have a daughter and a son.

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