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Press Release

In Memoriam

Honorable Juan M. Pérez-Giménez United States District Judge 1941 – 2020

It is with heavy hearts, we inform that Judge Juan M. Pérez-Giménez, “Juan Ma” to his close friends, passed away on December 10, 2020. Just a few days earlier, on December 5, 2020, he celebrated his forty-first anniversary as a United States district judge. Judge Pérez-Giménez served forty-five years on the Bench, including four years as a United States magistrate judge. While this information seems rather matter-of-fact, it takes on a different light at this time because for Judge Pérez-Giménez his longevity in public service, first as an assistant United States attorney and lastly on the federal Bench, was a matter of special satisfaction, second only to the immense pride he felt for his family.

Today, the United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico –its judges and staff, past and present— mourns the passing of a judge who epitomized service to others. He served as mentor to several generations of law clerks, including Chief Judge Gustavo A. Gelpí, initiating them in the legal profession with a steady hand, and by his own example. His chambers were characterized by long work hours, critical thinking, respect for the rule of law, and the highest ethical and moral standards. He ruled his courtroom firmly, efficiently, and respectfully, and approached difficult and particularly complex or controversial cases with a lion’s heart and fierce intellect. Those closest to Judge Pérez-Giménez are lucky to know his sharp sense of humor, his hand on their shoulder in difficult times, his comforting words in the hardest times, and an unexpected gesture when needed. Above all, Judge Pérez-Giménez exemplified true honor – in the words of Atticus Finch, “The one thing that doesn’t abide by majority rule is a person’s conscience.”

A man of immense faith, he was committed to God above everything, quietly and unswervingly, and to the sanctity of his family. Judge Pérez-Giménez was a devoted husband to Carmen Regina, and proud father to Juan Carlos, Jorge, José, Alelí, and Malena. And, of course, he delighted us all with accounts of his grandchildren whom he deeply loved. Our deepest condolences to them for their personal loss.

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