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The Baltimore Sun

April 3, 1998, Friday, FINAL EDITION

**SECTION:** LOCAL (NEWS), Pg. 8B**LENGTH:** 610 words**HEADLINE:** Judge Albert L. Sklar, 86, of city Supreme Bench**BYLINE:** Fred Rasmussen, SUN STAFF**BODY:**

**Judge** Albert L. **Sklar**, a former chairman of the state Public Service Commission who sat on the old Supreme Bench of Baltimore City for 17 years, died yesterday from complications of a stroke at Sinai Hospital. He was 86 and had lived in Mount Washington.

He retired from the court in 1981, but at his death **Judge Sklar** was working two days a week as a pretrial settlement **judge** for the city Circuit Court — successor to the Supreme Bench — and assisted in private arbitrations.

"He was a distinguished **judge** who was highly regarded by the bar for two reasons: He was an excellent student of the law and he had a marvelous judicial demeanor," said Circuit **Judge** Robert I. H. Hammerman, who served with **Judge Sklar** for 14 years.

"He thrived on being here and being part of the fraternity of lawyers and **judges**. He loved his job, therefore it wasn't work for him. He put everything into it."

His legal career began during the Depression when, as a young attorney, he made \$10 a week. As a Democrat, he represented Northwest Baltimore in the House of Delegates from 1939 to 1954.

In 1958, he was named to the three-member Public Service Commission by Gov. Theodore R. McKeldin, and was reappointed to a full six-year term a year later by Gov. J. Millard Tawes. In 1961, he was named chairman.

He was appointed to the Supreme Bench in 1964 by Mr. Tawes when a new judgeship was created by the General Assembly.

A small, slender man with sandy-colored hair and a perpetual squint, **Judge Sklar** was born and raised near Easterwood Park in West Baltimore. He was the son of a Russian immigrant tailor who had a shop on Caroline Street.

The youngest of eight children, **Judge Sklar** was given the nickname of "Acey" by neighborhood boys — derived from their hearing his mother call him by his Hebrew name, "Jacef."

And intimates, politicians and other **judges** called him Acey until the end of his life.

"He always told wonderful stories and had a great sense of humor," said former Circuit **Judge** Joseph I. Pines, who knew **Judge Sklar** 52 years and shared downtown office space with him as a young lawyer. "I used to call him my 'second-story **judge**,' because if you didn't like the first story, he'd tell you another."

A graduate of City College, **Judge Sklar** sold shoes during the day at a department store to pay his way through evening law school at the University of Baltimore.

"He was born into humble circumstances and I think this led to his affection for people and directed him to study law. He was always for the little guy and the working people," said his son, Steven V. **Sklar** of Mount Washington. "He wanted to help people."

Said Joseph H. H. Kaplan, administrative **judge** of the city Circuit Court: "He was the perfect gentleman. I don't think

I ever heard Acey raise his voice to anybody. He always acted with intelligence and courtesy. He was well-respected and loved."

He met his wife of 57 years, the former Sayde Jacobson, when he was an adviser to a Chizuk Amuno Congregation youth group of which she was a member.

"Being an obedient young lady, you see, she took my advice," **Judge Sklar** told The Sun during a retirement interview.

**Judge Sklar** remained active in the affairs of Chizuk Amuno. He was also a former president of the University of Baltimore Alumni Association and a former member of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra board.

Services will be held at 1 p.m. today at Sol Levinson & Bros., 8900 Reisterstown Road in Pikesville.

In addition to his wife and son, **Judge Sklar** is survived by a daughter, Batya **Sklar** of Baltimore; a sister, Ann Jaffee of Silver Spring; and a grandson.

Pub Date: 4/03/98

**GRAPHIC:** PHOTO, 1981 PHOTO, **Judge A. L. Sklar** was chairman of the Public Service Commission before joining the bench.

**TYPE:** OBITUARY

**LOAD-DATE:** April 7, 1998