



Recognizes
Roland Hayes
as a Special
Recognition Award recipient



Roland Hayes and family during a Father's Day dinner.

Legal Legend

If there were any doubts about how much people in this city love and respect Judge Roland Hayes, they have been cleared up in the three months since Hayes retired from the District Court bench. There have been numerous tributes to Hayes, including having a courtroom named in his honor at the Forsyth County Hall of Justice.

Hayes' brand of justice was admired by many, and the sense of community he embraced while serving on the bench has inspired his peers in the law profession.

A Winston-Salem native, Hayes was well established in the banking industry when he decided to change careers. The Winston-Salem State University alum, began taking night classes at Wake Forest University School of Law while keeping his 9-to-5 job at Wachovia. Hayes eventually enrolled at N.C. Central University School of Law, earning a law degree in 1971.

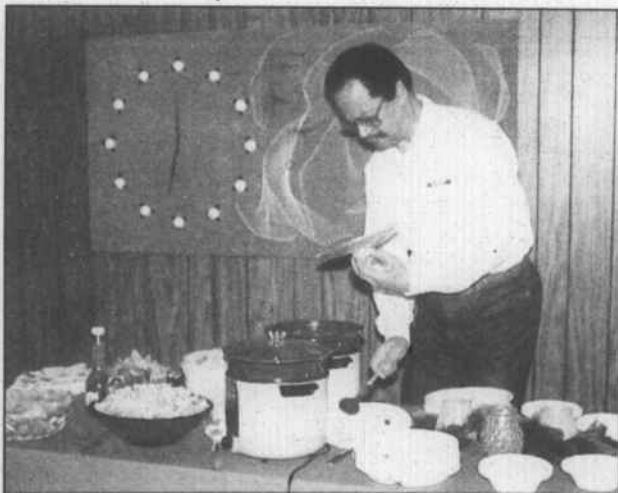
He sharpened his legal teeth at the Legal Aid Society of Forsyth County and

then as an associate in the law firm of then-attorney Richard C. Erwin. Hayes left private practice in 1984 when Gov. Jim Hunt appointed him to fill a vacancy on the District Court. Hayes served for more than 18 years as a District Court judge. Two of those years were spent as chief District Court judge. He was known for dispensing tough love and humor-laden advice to defendants.

Arguably it was not Hayes' job as a judge, but his hectic civic and social calendar away from the courthouse that has garnered Hayes the most fanfare. An active member of his church, Greater Cleveland Avenue Christian, Hayes keeps busy by serving a variety of organizations, including the Winston-Salem Urban League, the Society for the Study of Afro-American History of Winston-Salem/Forsyth County and the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Emancipation Association. Hayes is also a life member of the NAACP and a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.



Roland Hayes at a retirement event last month.



Roland Hayes enjoys cooking in his spare time.



Judge Roland Hayes behind the bench.