In memoriam: Hon. John L. Carroll: 1943-2023

It is with tremendous sadness that we pass along news of the death of Judge John L. Carroll, longest-serving member of The Sedona Conference board of directors.


Judge Carroll’s distinguished career included serving as legal director of the Southern Poverty Law Center in Montgomery, Ala., from 1974 to 1984; U.S. Magistrate Judge for the Middle District of Alabama from 1986 to 2001; and dean of Samford University’s Cumberland School of Law from 2001 to 2014. He continued teaching for the Cumberland School of Law until his retirement in 2022. He also served on the Judicial Conference’s Advisory Committee on Civil Rules.

Judge Carroll served on The Sedona Conference Board of Directors for more than 18 years.

“John was TSC’s longest-serving board member and was very well liked and highly respected by everyone who worked with him,” said Craig Weinlein, Sedona Conference executive director. “He believed in TSC’s charitable mission and served on the board selflessly to help TSC move the law forward in a reasoned and just way. Through my years of working with John he became a dear friend. I already miss him greatly.”

Judge Carroll was a U.S. Marine Corps veteran who flew 230 combat missions during the Vietnam War. In 2020, he co-founded and served as supervising attorney for the Cumberland Veterans Legal Assistance Clinic, providing assistance for veterans across the state of Alabama.

He received his bachelor’s degree from Tufts University, his J.D. from Samford’s Cumberland School of Law, and a Masters of Law from Harvard Law School.

Services are scheduled for Friday, Sept. 22, at St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church in Hoover, Ala. Judge Carroll’s family ask that gifts made in his memory be designated to the Cumberland Veterans Legal Assistance Clinic.

For further details on Judge Carroll’s life and legacy, please see his obituary on the Samford University website.