

Bernardin Annual Lecture 2019



Guest Speaker: Jean Hoefer Toal

*South Carolina Supreme Court Chief Justice, retired
Richland County Representative,
South Carolina House of Representatives (retired)*

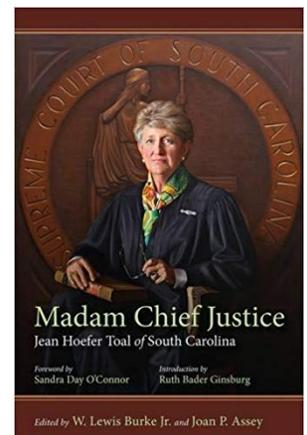
Jean Hoefer Toal is a life-long Catholic, active in St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Columbia, South Carolina as a lector. In 2016 she was awarded the Order of St. Gregory the Great from Pope Francis, given to recipients in recognition for living out their Catholic faith in service to the Church and the wider community. Bishop Robert E. Guglielmone presenting the awards said, "Our Catholic faith has so influenced the lives of these people that thousands have benefited because of their commitment to live the faith in so many ways."

Growing up in Columbia during the 1950s and 60s, Jean Hoefer was a youthful witness to the civil rights movement in the state and nation. Observing the state's premier civil rights lawyer Matthew J. Perry Jr. in court encouraged her to attend law school. As a lawyer she excelled in trial and appellate work and won major victories on behalf of Native Americans and women. Elected to the South Carolina House of Representatives in 1975, she quickly became one of the most respected members of that body where she served for fourteen years.

Chief Justice Jean Hoefer Toal began her service as an Associate Justice on the Supreme Court of South Carolina on March 17, 1988 and was installed as Chief Justice on March 23, 2000. She was re-elected as Chief Justice in February of 2004 and again in February of 2014, each time for ten-year terms.

Toal was awarded the South Carolina Trial Lawyers Outstanding Contribution to Justice Award in 1995. She has received honorary degrees from the University of South Carolina, Francis Marion University, the Citadel, Columbia College, and the College of Charleston.

Madam Chief Justice, published in 2016, chronicles her remarkable career as South Carolina's first female Supreme Court Chief Justice. As a lawyer, legislator, and judge, Toal is one of the most accomplished women in South Carolina history. This volume is a collection of essays about Toal which spans her career. Contributors include two United States Supreme Court Justices, federal and state judges state leaders, historians, legal scholars, leading attorneys, family, and friends, who provide analysis, perspective, and biographical information about the life and career of this dynamic leader and her role in shaping South Carolina.



Topic

"The Social Ministry of Joseph Cardinal Bernardin"

Thursday, November 7, 2019
Lecture: 6pm, USC School of Law
Judge Karen Williams Courtroom