

SUPREME COURT JUSTICE JAMES ROBERTSON

*Reuben V. Anderson**

Today, I have the honor of sharing a few thoughts about former Supreme Court Justice James Robertson. Without a doubt, he was the most intelligent and diligent lawyer I've encountered in my lengthy career. During the six years we served together on the Supreme Court, I never arrived at the office before him; I typically got there around 7:30 AM, while the word was that he was already in his chambers by 5:30. I often noted that his brilliance could have thrived in the field of science, where he might have made groundbreaking discoveries, such as cures for cancer and other dreaded diseases. Justice Robertson was an exceptional writer, frequently asking me to review drafts of his work. I was consistently in awe of his extensive knowledge.

For over forty years, Justice Robertson and I were members of the Pocahontas Trotters. We spent two decades running together, followed by twenty years of enjoying fine dinners, exquisite wines, and playful banter. I first connected with Justice Robertson at our Trotters meetings, where I learned about his passions: the State of Mississippi, running, Ole Miss, music, baseball, and, most especially, his beloved family. May he rest in peace.

* Phelps Dunbar, LLP; Mississippi Supreme Court Justice 1985-91; Circuit Court Judge for the 7th Circuit Court District, 1982-85; County Court Judge for Hinds County, 1977-82; Municipal Judge for the City of Jackson, 1976-77; Partner, Anderson, Banks, Nichols & Stewart, 1968-77; Mississippi Associate Counsel, NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc., 1967-75; Jamie L. Whitten Chair of Law and Government at the University of Mississippi, Fall of 1995.

