

Justice Donald Wintersheimer, one of the most distinguished citizens in the history of Bellevue, died February 18, a couple of months shy of his 90th birthday.

Justice Wintersheimer grew up on Clark Street, attended Sacred Heart School, and Newport Catholic High School.

He had degrees from Villa Madonna College, Xavier University, and the University of Cincinnati College of Law.

Justice Wintersheimer was in private law practice, and served for 14 years as Solicitor for the City of Covington, where he earned a reputation as a successful consumer advocate.

“Justice Wintersheimer served for 16 years as Covington City Solicitor,” said City Administrator Frank Warnock. “I had that honor, and I joked with Justice Wintersheimer that I was going to beat his long record. I almost made it.”

Justice Wintersheimer administered the oath of office to the Bellevue Council members in 2019. He provided a copy of his book, *Secrets of the Kentucky Supreme Court*, for each council member.

He was elected to the Kentucky Court of Appeals in 1976 and to the Kentucky Supreme Court in 1982, where he served until retirement in 2006. Justice Wintersheimer was the most prolific writer of appellate opinions in the history of Kentucky. He delivered an average of 50 per year over more than three decades of service. His opinions settled great questions among competing arguments and interests with his work.

Justice Wintersheimer was always a paragon of the finest judicial virtues: modesty, good humor, and appropriate demeanor. He was called “Justice” because it was his job title as a member of the Kentucky Supreme Court. There are only seven at a time in Kentucky, and Justice Wintersheimer was the Court’s representative from Northern Kentucky.

Justice Wintersheimer and his wife Alice raised a substantial family, and lived for many years in Covington near the Licking River.