

LAWRENCE R. JONES
(Biographical Summary in Field of Autism)

Lawrence R. Jones recently retired in 2017 as a New Jersey Superior Court Judge. During his term on the Bench, Jones authored over 60 opinions on novel issues of law, including a significant unpublished opinion regarding custody and parenting issues for children with autism (*Rooney v. Wall*, 2015). Following his departure from the Judiciary, Bench, Jones was honored by the New Jersey Law Journal in June 2017 as a Distinguished Leader of the N.J. Bar. In November 2017, Jones was appointed by Governor-elect Phil Murphy to serve on the gubernatorial transition team relative to legal issues and social justice.

L. Jones previously served on both the New Jersey Council of Developmental Disabilities (2007-2009) and the Governor's Adults with Autism Task Force (2008-2009), both times as an appointee of Governor Corzine. On the latter committee, Jones served as Chair of the Subcommittee on Legal Issues, and helped develop the "Plan for Action" which ultimately resulted in the creation of New Jersey's Office of Autism Services. Thereafter, following Jones' appointment to the Judiciary and consistent with the aforementioned Plan for Action relative to educating Superior Court Judges on autism, Jones founded, developed and co-presented the first program in New Jersey for sitting family court judges on autism and divorce, which was presented at the New Jersey Judiciary's Judicial College in 2010. Jones also co-authored the 2010 Judicial Bench Guide on the subject, and is the co-author of the "Jones-Holmes criteria" of special considerations for judges deciding custody issues regarding children with autism, which was presented at the N.J. Judicial College in 2010, at the Autism Society of America's national convention in Pittsburgh in 2013 and at the American College of Forensic Psychology Annual Symposium in San Francisco in 2008.

Prior to joining the Judiciary, Jones served the New Jersey State Bar Association as the Chairperson of the Editorial Board of New Jersey Lawyer Magazine, the official publication of the NJSBA. He also served as special editor of the magazine's first-ever edition on Special Education Law which featured articles written by multiple legal experts. Jones also co-authored with Dr. David Holmes "Autism and Divorce: Guidelines for Family Law Practice," published in New Jersey Lawyer magazine in 2009. Jones has lectured nationally on autism-related issues, including presentations before the Association for Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC) and the Autism Society of America (ASA). He is also one of the five original founders of Parents of Autistic Children (POAC), having helped launch and then develop this well-known non-profit organization in 2000. In 2005, N.J. Governor-elect Jon Corzine appointed Jones to serve on his gubernatorial transition team regarding human and social services for persons with developmental disabilities

In his post-Judicial career, Jones has continued to present and lecture extensively on multiple legal subjects including on issues concerning persons with autism. In 2018, he developed and presented a first-time program for the Association of Professional Mediators entitled, "Autism and Divorce: Issues and Challenges for the Mediator." In

2019, he developed and chaired/moderated a panel presentation for the New Jersey State Bar entitled "Autism and Divorce: Issues and Approaches to Handling Divorces with Autistic Children". In April, 2019, he authored a special 4-part weekly series entitled "Autism and the Law", published in the New Jersey Law Journal in honor of Autism Awareness Month.

L. Jones and his wife are parents of a child with autism. In 2002, their five year old son's journey to play Little League gave rise to professional baseball's first-ever Autism Awareness Day, an event honored by the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown and resulted in an Emmy Award for Comcast News for best feature news story of 2003. The event was also the subject of a cover story in Autism Digest and led to a first-ever Autism-awareness Days by the New York Yankees, as recognized by the United States Senate and by the Autism Society of America. Similar events were thereafter hosted by the Florida Marlins, the (then) Montreal Expos, and the Pittsburgh Pirates, commencing a custom of honoring autism through Major League Baseball which is now followed by major league teams throughout the United States and Canada.

L.Jones presently practices mediation, arbitration, and dispute resolution, and resides in Toms River, New Jersey with his family.