

## **A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY OF HAROLD I. CHERNESS**

Harold I. Cherness was a resident of Culver City for nearly 50 years from 1953 until 2002. As a new resident of Culver City, he became actively involved in community and civic affairs. He was one of the founding members of Temple Akiba and was one of the early members (1953) of the Culver City Democratic Club.

As a civic activist in the 1950's, he fought for street lights and sewers in what was then a rapidly growing semi-rural community. In addition, he fought for pay parity for Culver City police officers so that their salaries would be comparable to the salaries provided by the Los Angeles Police Department. All of these goals, thanks to people like Harold Cherness, were ultimately achieved.

As a member of the Culver City Democratic Club, he participated in numerous federal, state, and local elections, ultimately rising to the position of President of the Democratic Club.

In 1975, Harold Cherness was appointed by Governor Jerry Brown to the municipal court bench for the Culver Judicial District. He remained in this position for nearly 20 years. During his tenure from 1975 until 1995, he developed a reputation as a kind and compassionate jurist who treated everyone who came before him with the upmost courtesy and respect. He was a jurist who displayed compassion for those who struggled with alcohol and drug addiction. He believed that both the individual and society were better served by rehabilitating troubled people rather than putting them in jail.

The years he spent as a municipal court judge in Culver City were the happiest and most fulfilling years of a lengthy legal career that spanned 64 years. He had the opportunity to elevate himself to the Superior Court in Los Angeles but declined that opportunity so that he could continue to serve the people of Culver City in the community he loved.

It should be noted that Harold Cherness was the only municipal court judge to ever receive the "Judicial Excellence Award" (1991) from the Criminal Courts Bar Association. This is simply one more example of what an extraordinary judge he was.

After he retired from the Culver Judicial District, he continued to serve as an "on assignment" judge filling in for judges throughout Los Angeles County who were sick or on vacation. He continued to work in this capacity until he reached the age of 90.

Harold Cherness was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. He was happily married to Trudy Cherness for 55 years from 1945 until 2001 when Trudy passed away. He remarried in 2002 to Carolyn Falstein and was happily married until his passing in March of 2016. He was a loving and devoted father to Darryl and Janel

Cherness and a loving companion to his granddaughter, Isabell Cherness. In addition, he was a devoted and generous father in law to his daughter in law, Amy Cherness, and his son in law, Marshall Bloom.

Harold I. Cherness will always be remembered by his family as a loving and devoted father and grandfather. He will be remembered by his friends as a person who was a true friend who would do anything to help a friend in need. Finally, he will be remembered by the Culver City community as an outstanding citizen of Culver City and as an exemplary jurist.