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Pittsburgh Resident Graduates from USD School of Law

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PITTSBURGH RESIDENT GRADUATES FROM USD SCHOOL OF LAW

Pittsburgh resident Constance Ann Thomas was among 302 law students who received Juris Doctor Degrees from the University of San Diego during the University's 1980 Commencement exercises on May 25.

Addressing the law school graduates was A. Leon Higginbotham, Jr., U.S. Circuit Court Judge for the Third Circuit. Higginbotham urged the graduates to be more concerned with the values by which they apply their trade than with the technical aspects of legal practice.

"Are you a better person, a more moral individual, than you would have been had you not gone to law school?" Higginbotham asked. "Do you have a sense of commitment to those who may need your services the most? Out of the 39 Presidents of the United States, 25 have been lawyers. (Yet) those Presidents who have done the most for women and minorities have been non-lawyers: Presidents Truman, Kennedy and Johnson."

Higginbotham was the first black appointed to be a commission-level-member of any Federal Regulatory Agency; in 1962, President John Kennedy appointed him Commissioner for the Federal Trade Commission. He was appointed to the Third Circuit seat by President Carter in 1977.

Higginbotham received an Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree from USD.

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