



## CAMDEN COUNTY BAR FOUNDATION THOMAS S. HIGGINS IN MEMORIAM AWARD

**Tom Higgins** was born into a rooming home in Camden where he spent his early years cared for by his mother and older brother. As he matured, he helped the family finances by selling house trailers. At Camden Catholic High School, Tom was the captain of a nationally recognized debate team, a skill he continued to employ during his days at Saint Joseph's University. After graduating from Villanova Law School, Tom was one of the first ever judicial law clerks in Camden County. Shortly after he began his legal career working for Thomas McGuire, Tom at age 28 was appointed the judge of Gloucester Township Municipal Court. He served as an assistant Camden County prosecutor, ran for United States Congress, and became a Camden County Freeholder. Tom was a friend and advisor to Governor Jim Florio and worked on the finance committee for each of his gubernatorial campaigns. During his career, Tom developed an expertise in environmental law and represented such diverse entities as municipal utilities authorities, the Delaware River Port Authority and the New Jersey Turnpike Authority. He was certified by the New Jersey Supreme Court as a civil trial attorney and spent a considerable portion of his career as the managing partner of the firm he founded, Higgins, Slachetka & Long. He also was a successful businessman and was an avid golfer often finding matches with friends at Tavistock Country Club.

### **SCHOLARSHIP CRITERIA**

The ideal candidate for the \$1,000 Thomas S. Higgins, Esquire In Memoriam Law School Award is an outstanding college student from South Jersey, with preference given to candidates from Camden City, has a minimum GPA of 3.5, can demonstrate financial need, and has an interest in public service, with preference given to candidates with an interest in environmental law.