Inquiry a chance to roll back civil rights curbs

Randal Rader has resigned as chief judge of the US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, effective Friday.

**JUDGE QUITS OVER EMAIL TO FRIEND**

**Hughes appointment set an alarming precedent**

The day Sauron put Chief Justice in his place

This extract from Michael Pelly’s new book, *Judge: Life, Law and the Courtroom*, offers an insight into the personal dynamics between the judges of the High Court.

**Judge: Life, Law and the Courtroom**

CHRIS MERRITT

On the eve of the High Court’s first meeting this year, one of its longest-serving members was facing a decision: should he accept the recommendation of a Senate Committee to retire? This decision had profound implications for the court. The court’s longest-serving judge, Justice Gaudron, was widely expected to retire: she had announced her intention to resign and had indicated she would seek to fill the position with a new judge, or judges, from outside the court. She had also expressed her desire to retire in the interest of the court, particularly as she felt the court’s work load was becoming too demanding.

On the other hand, the court was facing a crisis. Justice Gaudron had been a key member of the court for many years. She had been a leading member of the court and had played a significant role in the development of the court’s procedures. She had also been the court’s longest-serving judge, and had been a key member of the court’s working group on the court’s rules and procedures.

In the end, Justice Gaudron decided to accept the recommendation of the Senate Committee and retire. This decision had a profound impact on the court. It was the first time in the court’s history that a judge had retired prior to the end of their term. The court was now faced with the challenge of replacing Justice Gaudron with a new judge, or judges, from outside the court. This would be a difficult task, as the court had to find judges who were not only qualified to serve on the court, but who would also be able to fit into the court’s existing working group and procedures.

Justice Gaudron’s decision also had significant implications for the court’s future. The court had been facing a crisis in recent years, and Justice Gaudron’s retirement would be a significant blow to the court’s morale. It would be important to find judges who were able to replace Justice Gaudron and help restore the court’s morale.

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