



Arthur J. Will

Date in office: Dec. 11, 1951 - Dec. 1, 1957

Arthur J. Will was appointed by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to the position of chief administrative officer (CAO) in 1951 when CAO Wayne R. Allen went on military leave. He served as CAO until 1957.

A native of Chicago, Will came to Los Angeles in 1910 in his teens, where he graduated from Los Angeles High School. He continued his education at the University of Southern California, earning his degree as a civil engineer.

Will began his career with the County of Los Angeles in 1932 during the Depression. As an industrial engineer, considered a day-laborer position, he earned \$2.50 a day. He was hired for three months to make a study of the Rancho Los Amigos Laundry. Upon completing that job, he was assigned to the Department of Charities, now called the Department of Public Social Services, where he held various positions that brought him in close contact with a number of county hospitals. He served four years as director of Olive View Sanitarium, now called Olive View Medical Center, and from 1940 - 1951 he was superintendent for the Department of Charities.

As a hospital executive, Will served as a member of the American College of Hospital Administrators, International City Managers Association and Association of Western Hospitals. In 1954 the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors issued him a special citation of merit for bringing unprecedented efficiency into county government "by cooperation rather than compulsion". He was cited by elected officials as a top governmental executive and received scrolls and commendatory resolutions from businesses as well as elected representatives throughout Los Angeles County. Among his many awards was the Clarence A. Dykstra Award for his outstanding contribution to the development of public administration; and a gold life membership from the Greater Los Angeles Press Club.

Will retired from County service December 1, 1957. On December 17, 1957, he was appointed by the Board of Supervisors, and approved by the Los Angeles City Council, to serve as a special consultant for the Civic Center Mall. He had played a leading role in his position as chief administrative officer in the multi-million dollar development. The Civic Center Mall fountain was named after Will in memory of his dedication to its planning and development.

In January 1958, Will opened a consultant firm in downtown Los Angeles.

He died in September 1980 after suffering a heart attack. At the time of his death, he was chairman of the Metropolitan Transit Authority's legislative committee, where he championed for better and improved quality services to the public. He was survived by his wife, Jean, and three sons, Dr. Drake Will, Robert P. Will and Arthur G. Will, who served as Los Angeles County's chief administrative officer from December 1970 to September 1974.