

MORAN, JAMES J

James J. MORAN, senior member of the law firm of MORAN & GILLESPIE at Portland, former judge of the Indiana State Court of Appeals, former judge of the Jay Circuit Court and a member of the bar of this court for nearly twenty-five years, with residence at Portland, is a native Hoosier and has lived in this state all his life. Judge MORAN was born on a farm in Adams county, Indiana, in 1873, and is a son of Thomas and Anna MORAN, natives of Ireland, who were married in Ireland and shortly afterward came to America and proceeded on out into Indiana, locating in Adams county, where they established their home on a farm, and there spent the remainder of their lives. They were the parents of nine children; of whom seven are still living. Reared on the home farm in Adams county. Judge MORAN received his early schooling in the schools of that neighborhood and supplemented this by a course in Ohio Northern University at Ada, Ohio, after which he began teaching school and was for four years thus occupied, meantime taking advantage of the summer courses in the normal school at Portland and preparing himself for the study of law, he having early decided upon the law as his profession. Thus prepared he entered the Indiana Law School at Indianapolis, and in 1896 was graduated from that institution. In the spring of the following year he returned to Portland and in association with Jacob F. DENNEY began practice. Two years later this association was discontinued and Judge MORAN then formed an association with Cornelius CORWIN, an arrangement which was continued for four years, at the end of which time Judge MORAN became a partner of Judge SMITH. This association was maintained for six years, or until Judge MORAN was elected to the bench of the Jay Circuit Court in the fall of 1910. Upon the completion of his four years on the Circuit Court bench, Judge MORAN was appointed by Governor Ralston to the bench of the Indiana Appellate Court. He served in that important judicial capacity until January 1, 1917, and upon completion of this service returned to Portland and resumed his practice, forming then a partnership with Frank GILLESPIE, and has since been practicing under the firm name of MORAN & GILLESPIE. Judge MORAN is a Democrat and is a member of the Portland Kiwanis Club and of the local lodges of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Fraternal Order of Eagles and the Loyal Order of Moose, and is a member of the Catholic church. Judge MORAN married Elizabeth SOMMERS and he and his wife have a very pleasant home at Portland.

SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, pp.334-335. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut.