

# Supreme Court Justice Belaval Set To Retire

By **FRANK RAMOS**  
Of The **STAR** Staff

Emilio S. Belaval, associate justice of the Commonwealth Supreme Court, confirmed Tuesday that he will retire from the court effective Jan. 8.

The 64-year-old Belaval, who has been a member of the high court since 1953, said in an interview that he is retiring in order to devote himself more completely to writing.

Belaval is one of the island's leading writers, having produced short stories, plays and essays during a writing career that began when he was 14 years old.

Belaval informed Gov. Sanchez of his plans to retire in a letter dated Oct. 9. The associate justice pointed out that he was 64 years old, adding: "I have only a few years left and still have many things to finish."

The Governor accepted Belaval's resignation in a letter in which he praised the judge for having carried out his duties "with honor and justice through many years."

Belaval will be eligible for a pension equal to his salary of \$22,000 a year when his retirement becomes effective.

The retirement of Belaval will give Sanchez his first opportunity to make an appointment to the island's high court. It could not be learned immediately who the leading candidates are for the post.

Belaval was born in Fajardo, a town he described on Tuesday as the "Capital of Puerto Rico." He attended Central High School in San Juan and received his law degree from the University of Puerto Rico in 1927.

Following graduation, Belaval first worked for the Puerto Rico Telephone Co. but

(See **BELAVAL**, Page 14)

# BELAVAL

(Continued From Page 1)

went into private practice until 1942 when he was appointed a judgeship in Bayamon.

In 1945, Belaval was named a judge in what is now the San Juan Superior Court. He then stepped up to the Supreme Court in 1953.

Belaval said his first immediate task after retiring will be to help prepare a book on his complete works which a publishing house plans to issue. The judge said he was also considering writing his memoirs although he added "I'm not really that important."

Among Belaval's best known works are the play "La Vida," which examines the problem of man's isolation in the modern, industrialized world, and the group of short stories "Cuentos de la Plaza Fuerte" which was published in 1961.

Of his years on the bench, Belaval said his experience had shown him that "the law is very strict in many ways and must be tempered with justice."

---

## ural Christmas

RS (Hato Rey). Beautiful, h  
Greensit for protection, lon  
ply lasts.

From

