

after graduating from UCLA with a bachelor's degree in 1950.

Nelson received his law degree from Loyola University in 1953. Dorothy Nelson said her husband attended Loyola because classes were held in the mornings and he could work at a law firm in the afternoon while she attended UCLA law school. They married in 1950.

Nelson was a Los Angeles County deputy district attorney from 1954 to 1957. He was appointed to the Municipal Court by Gov. Ronald Reagan in 1968. Nelson retired in 1989 but worked as a Superior Court judge until 1993.

The Nelsons also were longtime national officers of the Bahai faith, which stresses social equality and universal brotherhood. James Nelson served nearly two decades as chairman of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahais of the United States.

In addition to his wife, Nelson is survived by their daughter, Lorna, of Pasadena; son, Frank, of Arcadia; and one grandchild.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. March 26 at the Pasadena Convention Center's ballroom.

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