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## ■ Obituaries

# Carl Eardley, Justice Department

11/28/97

Carl Eardley, 92, a retired lawyer who died at Suburban Hospital Nov. 23 after being struck by a car in Chevy Chase, was a former Justice Department official whose civil rights litigation included suits in the attempted blocking of school desegregation in Little Rock and the integration of bus depot facilities in Montgomery, Ala.

Montgomery County police said Mr. Eardley was struck while crossing Connecticut Avenue on foot at Chevy Chase Lake Drive, near his Chevy Chase home. A police spokesman said the case is under investigation.

Mr. Eardley also served as special counsel to the Senate Ethics Committee during its investigation of former Sen. Herman E. Talmadge (D-Ga.), who was accused of ethical and financial violations. Mr. Eardley called for sanctions against Talmadge, who was denounced by the Senate in 1979 for misconduct and failed to win reelection the next year.

Mr. Eardley began his career with the Justice Department in 1935 as an assistant U.S. attorney in Los Angeles. He moved to Washington in 1938 to join a forerunner of the Civil Division and later served as deputy director during an era of intensifying civil rights activity.

He helped represent the government in Little Rock in 1957, when Arkansas Gov. Orval Faubus called out the National Guard in what proved a failed attempt to prevent nine black students from entering the city's Central High School.

Mr. Eardley also litigated a 1961 suit in Montgomery, Ala., against attempts to block African Americans from using restrooms at the local bus depot.

He left the Justice Department in 1971 to join the Environmental Protection Agency as deputy assistant administrator for enforcement of clear-water laws. Three years later, he joined former EPA director William D. Ruckelshaus and others in forming the law firm of Beveridge, Fairbanks and Diamond. He retired in the 1980s.

Mr. Eardley was a native of Salt Lake

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## Lawyer, Dies at 92

City and a graduate of Stanford University and its law school. He served in the Army with the Allied Military Government in Italy.

In the 1950s and 1960s, he was a director of plays for community theater groups that included the Montgomery Players.

His wife, Ortensia Gigli Eardley, died in 1984.

Survivors include three sons, Kenneth Eardley of Underhill, Vt., Steven Eardley of Madison, Wis., and Brian Eardley of Rockville; and a sister.