



JOHN MINOR WISDOM



DIVERSITY LEADERSHIP

AWARDS LUNCHEON

April 10, 2014
12:15 pm – 1:45 pm

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JOHN MINOR
WISDOM

Swardees

MARTIN GLICK



Marty Glick began his legal career with the Civil Rights Division of the US Department of Justice and was assigned to the investigation of the murder of the three civil rights workers in Philadelphia, Mississippi, in the summer of 1964. Glick worked in the South for over two years on civil rights matters including voter registration, an injunction against the Ku Klux Klan in Bogalusa, Louisiana, the constitutionality of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, desegregation of the largest restaurant in Jackson, Mississippi, and the murder of Vernon Dahmer in Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

After working for the USDOJ, Glick joined California Rural Legal Assistance (CRLA) in late 1966 and became Litigation Director and later Executive Director from 1972–74. Glick litigated many CRLA cases, including the termination of the Bracero program that allowed foreign labor to take jobs from California farmworkers. He also, with colleague Mo Jourdan, succeeded in litigation outlawing the use of the short-handle hoe, a tool that caused disabling back injuries, and in a class action that forced reassignment of 35,000 Chicano children inappropriately placed in “classes for the retarded” based on English-only, culturally biased IQ tests. In 1974–75 Glick served on the faculty of Stanford Law School and then as Governor Jerry Brown’s Director of EDD from 1975 to 1979. He served four years, the last as Chair, of the California Committee of Bar Examiners.

An intellectual property specialist representing clients such as HP, the Clorox Company, and Major League Baseball and negotiating the resolution of the BlackBerry patent litigation, Glick joined Howard Rice in 1979 and later Arnold & Porter when the firms combined in January, 2012. He worked with colleague Jay Spears on the Phillip B case, involving a young man with Down syndrome denied life-saving heart surgery by his natural parents. Custody was won for Phillip’s “de facto” parents and the surgery was successful, affirming rights of mentally handicapped children. The case was featured on *60 Minutes* and in a made-for-television movie. A board member of Public Advocates since 1993, Glick currently represents Public Advocates client groups in a case challenging adequacy of funds provided for California public school students. Glick and his colleagues also have provided for decades substantial pro bono assistance to CRLA and its clients, most recently challenging and narrowing the US Office of Inspector General’s subpoena for access to 39,000 client names and CRLA attorney work product. Glick received the One Justice 2010 Opening Doors of Justice award for lifetime public interest leadership and he has served for ten years on the National Advisory Committee of his law school at Ohio State University.

John Minor Wisdom

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

John Minor Wisdom (May 17, 1905 - May 15, 1999), one of the "Fifth Circuit Four", and a Republican from Louisiana, was a judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit during the 1950s and 1960s, when that court became known for a series of decisions crucial in advancing the civil rights of African-Americans. At that time, the Fifth Circuit included not only Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas (its jurisdiction since October 1, 1981), but also Alabama, Georgia, Florida, and the Panama Canal Zone.

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Biography

Early life

John Minor Wisdom was born on May 17, 1905 in New Orleans, Louisiana and graduated from the prestigious Isidore Newman School. In 1925, he received an A.B. degree from Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia. In 1929, he received an LL.B. from Tulane Law School.

Career

He was in the United States Army Lieutenant Colonel from 1942 to 1946. He was in private practice of law in New Orleans, Louisiana from 1929 to 1957. He was an Adjunct professor of law, Tulane University from 1938 to 1957.^[1]

John Minor Wisdom



Judge on United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit

In office

1957 – 1977

(Senior judge, 1977-1999)

Nominated by Dwight D. Eisenhower

Preceded by Wayne G. Borah

Succeeded by Alvin Benjamin Rubin

Personal details

Born May 17, 1905

New Orleans, Louisiana, USA

Died May 15, 1999 (aged 93)

New Orleans, Louisiana

Political party Republican

Spouse(s) Bonnie Stewart Mathews Wisdom

Alma mater Isidore Newman School

Washington & Lee University
(1925)

Tulane University Law School
(1929)

As a young man, he was a Democrat, but he left that party in reaction to what he perceived as the corrupt administration of Governor Huey Pierce Long, Jr. As the Republican National Committeeman from Louisiana, Wisdom was instrumental in securing the nomination of Dwight D. Eisenhower at the 1952 Republican National Convention in Chicago, Illinois. Wisdom was also credited for helping Eisenhower to win Louisiana in the 1956 general election, the first time Louisiana had voted Republican in 80 years. Eisenhower appointed Wisdom to the Fifth Circuit bench in 1957 in what was seen as a reward for his services.^[2] Wisdom was nominated by President Eisenhower on March 14, 1957, to a seat vacated by Wayne G. Borah. He was confirmed by the United States Senate on June 26, 1957, and received his commission on June 27, 1957.^[1]

He assumed senior status on January 15, 1977, but continued to hear cases until his death in 1999.^[1] He was a member of the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation (MDL) from its creation in 1968 and was then the Panel's chairman from 1975 until 1978,^[3] and he served on the Special Court created under the Regional Rail Reorganization Act starting in 1975, becoming presiding judge from 1986, when Judge Henry Friendly retired, until 1996 when the Special Court was dissolved.^[4] President Bill Clinton awarded Wisdom the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1993. On May 25, 1994, the Fifth Circuit's headquarters in New Orleans was renamed the John Minor Wisdom U.S. Court of Appeals Building.

His former law clerks include U.S. Senator Lamar Alexander; Judge William H. Pryor, Jr. of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit; Judge Martin Leach-Cross Feldman of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana; Judge D. Brock Hornby of the United States District Court for the District of Maine; U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Jerry Brown of the Eastern District of Louisiana; U.S. Magistrate Judge Viktor V. Pohorelsky of the Eastern District of New York; Justice Nora M. Manella of the California Court of Appeal; Professor Philip Frickey of the University of California at Berkeley School of Law; Professor Martha Field of Harvard Law School; Ricki Tigert Helfer, former chair of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation; Jack Weiss, Chancellor of Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center; Barry Sullivan, former dean of the Washington and Lee University School of Law; and Gail B. Agrawal, dean of the University of Iowa College of Law.

Death

He died on May 15, 1999.

Legacy

Upon his death, he left all of his writings, papers, and a variety of other personal effects, to Tulane University Law School, which now displays them in the law school building, Weinmann Hall. He also left a sizable collection of his personal Mardi Gras memorabilia to the University of New Orleans.

He is one of the subjects of the book *Unlikely Heroes* by Jack Bass, about the southern federal judges who helped implement the desegregation of the South.^{[5][6]} A full-length biography, *Champion of Civil Rights: Judge John Minor Wisdom*,^[7] was written by Professor Joel William Friedman of Tulane Law School, and was published in January 2009 by Louisiana State University Press.^{[8][9]}

Quote

"The Constitution is both color blind and color conscious. To avoid conflict with the equal protection clause, a classification that denies a benefit, causes harm, or imposes a burden must not be based on race. In that sense the Constitution is color blind. But the Constitution is color conscious to prevent discrimination being perpetuated and to undo the effects of past discrimination. The criterion is the relevancy of color to a legitimate government purpose."

- Wisdom, writing for the majority in *U.S. v. Jefferson County Board of Education*, 1967.

References

- ^{a b c} ^ "John Minor Wisdom" (<http://www.fjc.gov/servlet/tGetInfo?jid=2622>) at the *Biographical Directory of Federal Judges*, a public domain publication of the Federal Judicial Center.
- ^ "Reward for Wisdom," (<http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,809249,00.html>) Time Magazine, March 25, 1957
- ^ Tulane Alumni Association, Distinguished Alumnus Award 1989 (<http://tulane.edu/alumni/taa-alumni-awards-distinguished-1989.cfm>)
- ^ Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts Special Railroad Court to Close Doors (November 1996)[1] (<http://www.uscourts.gov/ttb/nov96ttb/rr.htm>)
- ^ Jack Bass, *Unlikely Heroes: The Dramatic Story of the Southern Judges of the Fifth Circuit who Translated the Supreme Court's Brown Decision Into a Revolution for Equality* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1981), ISBN 0-671-25064-7, ISBN 978-0-671-25064-5.
- ^ Amazon.com listing for *Unlikely Heroes* (<http://www.amazon.com/dp/0817304916>)
- ^ Joel William Friedman, *Champion of Civil Rights: Judge John Minor Wisdom* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2009), ISBN 978-0-8071-3384-2.
- ^ *Champion of Civil Rights* announcement (<http://www.lsu.edu/lsupress/bookPages/9780807133842.html>) at LSU Press website.
- ^ Brett W. Curry, Review of *Champion of Civil Rights: Judge John Minor Wisdom* (<http://www.lpbr.net/2009/06/champion-of-civil-rights-judge-john.html>), *Law and Politics Book Review* vol. 19, no. 6, pp. 366-370 (2009).

External links

- John Minor Wisdom U.S. Court of Appeals Building (<http://www.lb5.uscourts.gov/History/JMWBlgd/jmwblgd.pdf>) (PDF)
- Joel W. Friedman, *Desegregating the South: John Minor Wisdom's Role in Enforcing Brown's Mandate* (<http://ssrn.com/abstract=565022>), 78 Tul. L. Rev. 6 (2004).
- Judge John Minor Wisdom Collection (<http://cdm16313.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/landingpage/collection/p15140coll31>) in the Louisiana Digital Library

Retrieved from "http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=John_Minor_Wisdom&oldid=603472877"

Categories: 1905 births | 1999 deaths

| Judges of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit

| United States court of appeals judges appointed by Dwight D. Eisenhower

| Presidential Medal of Freedom recipients | People from New Orleans, Louisiana

| Washington and Lee University alumni | Tulane University Law School alumni

| Isidore Newman School alumni | Louisiana Democrats | Louisiana Republicans

| Tulane University Law School faculty