



Historical Society of the District of Columbia Circuit

Newsletter # 17

October 2013



Chief Judge Roberts

Welcome to Chief Judge Richard W. Roberts

The members of the Historical Society Board extend a warm welcome to Chief Judge Richard W. Roberts, the Society's newest Board member. At the same time, Board members extend their thanks to former Chief Judge Royce C. Lamberth for participating actively and enthusiastically as a member of the Board these past nine years.

New Website Feature: Searches

The Historical Society recently added a search engine to its website which allows visitors to search documents and other content on the site for specified keywords. Visitors can enter a term in any of the search engine boxes on the website at www.dcchs.org, and the search will return a list of documents and other material in which the keywords are found anywhere on the site, including within each of the oral histories. The search engine works best with Chrome, Firefox, or Internet Explorer.



The Historical Society of the District of Columbia Circuit presents:

Women in the Life and Law of the D.C. Circuit Courts

Date: Tuesday, June 18, 2013
Time: 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Location: Constitution Courthouse, 6th Floor
5. Southwell Postquam S.S. Courthouse
2nd Street & Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C.



Women in the Life and Law of the D.C. Circuit Courts will bring together participants in the life of the D.C. Circuit – judges, administrators, law clerks and practicing attorneys – to speak from their experience about the past, present and future of women in the Courts of the Circuit. The program will open with stage-writing remarks by **Emmett Professor Barbara Babcock** of Stanford Law School, author of *Women Lawyers: The Trial of Clara Foltz*, who clerked for D.C. Circuit Judge Henry Edgerton and teaches about women's issues. This will be followed by a panel discussion moderated by Professor Babcock.

Admission is free.
A reception will follow the program.
Reservations are not required.

Special programs related to the observance of Women's Day, 2013, are being held in conjunction with this program. For information, call 202.223.1248 or visit www.hsdcc.org.

The Historical Society of the D.C. Circuit is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization independent of the Courts.

Participants in the panel will be:

- Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg** – D.C. Circuit Judge 1981-93
- Senior Judge Gladys Kessler** – Member of the District Court since 1994
- Chief Judge Royce C. Lamberth** – Member of the U.S. District Court since 1987
- Nancy Mayer-Whittington** – Clerk of the District Court 1995-2009
- Michele A. Roberts** – Partner, Shooklin, Aggs, Sims, Mungler & Flinn and advocate before the District Court
- Hon. Patricia M. Wald** – D.C. Circuit Judge 1979-99, Chief Judge 1986-92
- Helgi C. Walker** – Partner, Wiley Rein and advocate before the Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit

Ready for Viewing: “Women in the Life and Law of the D.C. Circuit Courts”

Watch the Society’s recent program, “[Women in the Life and Law of the D.C. Circuit Courts](#)” in its entirety. Listen as Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Judge Patricia Wald, Judge Royce Lamberth, Judge Gladys Kessler, Nancy Mayer-Whittington, Michele Roberts, and Helgi Walker respond to questions of moderator Barbara Babcock and talk about their experiences on the bench, in the courtroom, in law firms, and in the administrative offices of the courts over the years as women made their way into the legal profession and judiciary.



Read Francis Scott Key’s facetious, poetic habeas petition – and more

“The Star Spangled Banner” wasn’t the only occasion for Washington lawyer Francis Scott Key to write poetry. He turned to poetry regularly. Two of his poems, one funny and one sad, were for Judge James Morsell of the old Circuit Court of the District of Columbia. [James H. Johnston writes](#) about a warm, human side to the bench-and-bar relationship in the early days of the city.



On Display in the Courthouse

The second woman to serve on the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, Judge June Green, was named to replace Judge Burnita Sheldon Matthews, the first woman to serve on the Court. Judge Green served for 32 years, hearing many high-profile cases including a lawsuit brought by members of Congress challenging the constitutionality of U.S. military action in Grenada and supervising the confinement of presidential assailant John Hinckley. Judge Green ordered the public release of classified documents involving CIA activity in Nicaragua, sat on a panel which upheld a Congressional enactment prohibiting cigarette advertising on radio and television, and rebuffed efforts by President Richard Nixon to impound funds authorized by Congress for the education



of American Indians. Judge Green is the subject of the Society's latest exhibit, on display on the ground floor of the Courthouse.

In Search Of.....

We are recruiting lawyers to work with area high school students as they prepare to present arguments before our judges on April 25 in the Society's Mock Court program. We ask all interested attorneys to contact Paras Shah, Vice Chair of the Society's Education and Special Projects Committee, at paras.shah@nteu.org.



Portrait Ceremonies

After taking senior status, Judge Douglas H. Ginsburg, Judge A. Raymond Randolph, and Judge David B. Sentelle each held a portrait ceremony and donated his portrait to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. Each of the portrait ceremonies can be read in full, and each of the portraits can be viewed on the Society's website at www.dcchs.org.

Soon to Appear

Watch for the oral histories of Daniel "Mack" Armstrong, William H. Jeffress, Jr., and Richard Wiley.