



# Historical Society of the District of Columbia Circuit

Newsletter #24

July 2015



## In Celebration of the Historical Society's 25th Anniversary!

Chief Judge Merrick Garland paid tribute to the Historical Society on its 25th Anniversary at the Circuit Judicial Conference in Philadelphia. He described the Society's creation in 1990 and discussed its varied accomplishments and programs. [Read the tribute.](#)



Judge Oberdorfer



Judge Jackson

## Judicial Tributes

Chief Judge Richard W. Roberts delivered orally a eulogy to Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson, and Judge David S. Tatel delivered a eulogy to Judge Louis F. Oberdorfer at the Circuit Judicial Conference on June 24, 2015. Additionally, printed tributes to [Judges Oberdorfer](#) and [Jackson](#) were distributed to conferees. The tributes can now be read in full, and the eulogies will be placed on the Society's website in the coming days.



## A Mentor in the Society's Mock Court Program Speaks Out

Noel J. Francisco, Jones Day partner and appellate advocate, helped a group of students from Woodson High School prepare to argue cases before judges in the D.C. Circuit Courts – "one of the most fulfilling experiences of my professional career." According to Noel, "I don't know whether these kids will pursue careers in law. But I do know that they left that competition knowing they could do something they hadn't done before. And I know for sure that having the chance to see the law through their bright young eyes allowed me to see things anew as well." Read [Noel's full commentary.](#)



### Historical Society Programs Live On

The Historical Society has sponsored 19 programs commencing in December 2003, most of which focused on historic cases heard by the D.C. Circuit Courts, including "The Pentagon Papers Cases: Did the Courts Get it Right?" and "Who Solved Watergate?" Other programs highlighted important court-related issues such as "Women in the Life and Law of the District of Columbia Courts," the Society's most well attended program. Many of the programs were videotaped and can be viewed in their entirety on the Society's [website](#).



### Welcome to the New Members of the Historical Society Board:

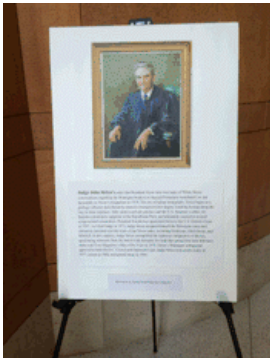
- Meredith Fuchs, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau
- Hon. Ketanji Brown Jackson, U.S. District Court
- Amy Jeffress, Arnold & Porter
- Hon. Patricia Millett, U.S. Court of Appeals
- Stuart S. Taylor, Jr., Brookings Institution
- K. Chris Todd, Kellogg Huber Hansen Todd Evans & Figel
- Helgi C. Walker, Gibson Dunn



### Meet the New Secretary of the Historical Society

Circuit Librarian since late 2008, Pat Michalowskij and Oleg, her husband of 28 years, enjoy managing a small family fruit orchard in rural Maryland and visits from their two college-age sons. Had Pat not found her calling as a law librarian, she would have chosen to become a photographer.

Pat has a long history in law librarianship having served as Legal Information Manager for the Office of Chief Counsel at the Food and Drug Administration, Head Law Librarian at Lawrence Law Library of the Trial Court Law Libraries in Massachusetts, and Head Librarian at Hale and Dorr in Boston.



### On Display in the Courthouse The Portrait of Judge John Sirica

Judge John Sirica's order that President Nixon turn over tapes of White House conversations regarding the Watergate breakin to Special Prosecutor Archibald Cox led inexorably to Nixon's resignation in 1974. The son of Italian immigrants, Sirica began as a garbage collector and ultimately earned a Georgetown law degree, teaching boxing along the way to meet expenses. After stints in private practice and the U.S. Attorney's office, he became a prominent supporter of the Republican Party and ultimately counsel to several congressional committees. President Eisenhower appointed Sirica to the U.S. District Court in 1957. As Chief Judge in 1972, Judge Sirica assigned himself the Watergate cases and ultimately presided over the trials of top Nixon aides, including Haldeman, Ehrlichman, and Mitchell. In this capacity, Judge Sirica exemplified the righteous indignation of the era, questioning witnesses from the bench with demands for truth that earned him both folk hero status and Time Magazine's Man of the Year in 1973. Sirica's Watergate rulings met approval at both the D.C. Circuit and Supreme Court. Judge Sirica took senior status in 1977, retired in 1986, and passed away in 1992.

### The Society is on Twitter and Facebook



The Historical Society is posting on Twitter and Facebook vignettes from the oral histories it has taken, historical facts, and other news about the D.C. Circuit Courts. [Follow us on Twitter](#) and [visit our Facebook page](#) to learn more and to share our history with your friends, colleagues, and networks.