

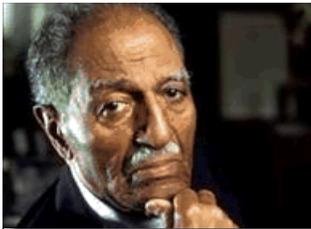


# Historical Society of the District of Columbia Circuit

Newsletter #30

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## THE LIFE OF CHIEF JUDGE WILLIAM B. BRYANT - AN INSPIRATION FOR YOUNG ADULTS



*Chief Judge William B. Bryant.*

The Society is sponsoring the writing of a biography of Chief Judge William B. Bryant by award-winning author Tonya Bolden. The biography will be targeted toward young adults.

Born in Wetumka, Alabama, in 1911, and raised in segregated Washington, D.C., Judge Bryant faced barriers erected to keep African-Americans from pursuing higher education. Undaunted, he pursued the law, ignoring warnings from family and the community about the dearth of jobs open to black attorneys.

After working his way through Howard University School of Law, Judge Bryant became a top criminal lawyer before President Johnson named him to the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia where he served with distinction for 40 years -- four years as Chief Judge -- an excellent model for today's youth.

The Society conducted a far-reaching search for a qualified author, ultimately selecting Tonya Bolden to bring Judge Bryant to life for high school students. The author of 30 books for children and young adults, Ms. Bolden's most recent work is *How to Build A Museum*, the story of the "magnificent and monumental" National Museum of African-American History and Culture.

## ROBERT L. WILKINS - JUDGE, U.S. COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE D.C. CIRCUIT, PUBLIC DEFENDER, VISIONARY, AND STRATEGIST



*Robert Wilkins*

Like others before him, Robert Wilkins saw a need for a national museum dedicated to African-American history and culture. Like others before him, Robert Wilkins knew that the magnificent, awful, profound stories passed down through generations of African Americans "deserved a home." Like others before him, Robert Wilkins knew that that "home" should not only be in the Nation's Capitol, but also on the Mall, "in America's front yard."

But unlike those before him, Wilkins saw a way forward when efforts to support a museum seemed hopelessly stalled. He researched and maneuvered until he -- and other stalwart believers working beside him -- helped the nation get there. "Failure was not an option....I had to make this museum happen." [Read about Judge Wilkins' role](#) in establishing the

National Museum of African-American History and Culture.

## WE'RE WELCOMING IN THE NEW YEAR - TAKE NOTE



On February 14, 2017, the Society will sponsor “**The Reporter’s Privilege and National Security: The Case of *In Re: Grand Jury Subpoena, Judith Miller*** .” The program will explore the common-law basis for a reporter’s privilege and how best to strike the balance between the public’s right to know and the Government’s need to secure information in the national interest.

Judges David S. Tatel and David B. Sentelle, two members of the original panel, will preside over the re-enactment of the arguments in the *Judith Miller* case. Laura R. Handman of Davis Wright Tremaine will represent Ms. Miller; Amy Jeffress of Arnold & Porter will represent the Government. Professor David Pozen of Columbia Law School will set the stage for the program and will participate in a panel discussion with both advocates and former Deputy Attorney General James M. Cole, who led DOJ’s 2014 revision of the rules for subpoenaing newspapers to testify before grand juries. Stuart S. Taylor will moderate the panel discussion.

The program will begin at 4:30 p.m. in the Ceremonial Courtroom of the E. Barrett Prettyman U.S. Courthouse.

On March 10, 2017, the Society will hold its 12th Mock Court Program for Washington, D.C. high school students at the Federal Courthouse. The Program is one of the Society’s signature events. This year, we expect well over 100 students, 10 Judges, and at least 25 volunteer attorney mentors to participate.



*A Scene from the 2016 Mock Court Program*

Students are provided the opportunity to present a five-minute argument to one of the Judges of the District Court or the Court of Appeals. Volunteer attorney mentors meet in advance with a group of students to help them prepare. In the past, judges and attorney mentors attest that they get as much personal satisfaction from hearing the students’ arguments and mentoring them as the students receive from a unique and rewarding educational experience. If you or an attorney you know would like to volunteer to be a mentor for the upcoming program, please contact Jim Rocap at [jrocap@steptoe.com](mailto:jrocap@steptoe.com).

## CELEBRATING OUR LAW CLERKS AND THEIR JUDGES



*(L to R) Chief Judge Beryl Howell, former Solicitor General Paul Clement, Chief Judge Merrick Garland, and Judge Brett Kavanaugh*

A talk by former Solicitor General Paul Clement was one of the highlights of the Society’s third reception for over 300 current and former law clerks of the D.C. Circuit Courts who gathered to renew acquaintances and reminisce on November 3, 2016. Mr. Clement, partner at Kirkland & Ellis, spoke of his wonderful memories and formative experiences while serving as law clerk first for Judge Laurence Silberman and later for Justice Antonin Scalia. Chief Judge Merrick Garland welcomed the crowd, Judge Brett Kavanaugh introduced Mr. Clement, and Chief Judge Beryl Howell thanked everyone for attending, urging clerks to join the Historical Society and participate in our programs.

## THE LIFE OF ROGER ZUCKERMAN – A NEW ORAL HISTORY



*Roger Zuckerman*

**Selling Shoes, Selling Justice.** If someone should ask, 100 years from now, what the phrase "Washington lawyer" meant, they surely will be referred to Roger Zuckerman's oral history. If it were a movie, it would be called a classic. Trial practice, he says, is like selling shoes only you're selling justice. Zuckerman has a gift for relating "war stories" from his career and yet seeing himself and the Washington legal scene as future historians may. He has been an Assistant U.S. Attorney, white-collar criminal defense lawyer, sole practitioner, law firm founder (Zuckerman Spaeder), rain-maker, and managing partner. He talks among other things about hostile judges, mock juries, branch offices, his criminal client friends (only some were accused of murder), the excitement of holding a client's life in his hands, and betting-the-ranch cases. But rather than waiting 100 years, this [oral history](#) might best be read before going to law school.

#### **EXPANSION OF THE DISTRICT COURT'S PORTRAIT COLLECTION**



The portraits of Judges [Ellen Segal Huvelle](#), [Ricardo Urbina](#), and [Reggie Walton](#) were presented to the District Court recently and now appear in the Society's on-line judicial portrait exhibit. Take a look at the paintings and read about the judges and the artists who painted their portraits.

#### **IN FULL DISPLAY -- THE PORTRAIT OF DISTRICT JUDGE J. HARRY COVINGTON**



*J. Harry Covington*

[J. Harry Covington](#), lawmaker, jurist, and founder of one of the oldest D.C. law firms, was born in 1870 on Maryland's eastern shore. He studied law at the University of Pennsylvania and upon graduation in 1894 entered private practice in Easton, Maryland. After running unsuccessfully for state senate, he won a seat in the U.S. Congress in 1908 representing Maryland's first District. He resigned from Congress when President Woodrow Wilson nominated him to the United States District Court in 1914. In 1917, President Wilson asked Judge Covington to spearhead a special investigation into the International Workers of the World (IWW), a union under suspicion for its socialist, radical, and suspected anarchist elements that Wilson believed was a threat to the American war effort. Federal attention to these so-called Wobblies, including Judge Covington's investigation, culminated in simultaneous raids in two dozen cities nationwide in September 1917. Judge Covington resigned from the bench in 1918 to co-found Covington & Burling on January 1, 1919. He died in 1942, and the law firm that bears his name today consists of more than 800 lawyers.

#### **WEBSITE NEWS**

We view our website as the primary way to communicate our history to those outside the Prettyman Courthouse -- the general public. Last year, an estimated 255,640 pages were viewed. Imagine if our thousands of users tried to tour the courthouse every day, and you can see how important a web presence is.

But just like real-world exhibits, the website has to be refreshed constantly with new material and new ways of displaying it. An increasing use of photographs makes a visit to the website a better visual experience. We are also moving to a larger font and reducing explanatory text. We want



navigation of the site to be as intuitive as possible. Our historical material is arranged chronologically so that visitors can move quickly to the period they are interested in. Our oral history section has become our pride and joy. We currently have 81 oral histories posted which provide researchers, as well as all readers, with rich, deep, and colorful looks into the history not only of the Circuit but also of the Washington legal community over the past eighty or so years. We have been successful in attracting lively articles based on the oral histories. If you haven't visited lately, feel free to come by -- [www.dcchs.org](http://www.dcchs.org). We are open twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week including holidays.