



Historical Society of the District of Columbia Circuit

Newsletter #37 - October 2018

Historical Society of the D.C. Circuit - www.dcchs.org



Jim Rocap

[Historical Society Board News](#)

Jim Rocap, newly named Vice President of the Historical Society, is already hard at work planning the Society's 2019 Mock Court Program to be held March 1, 2019. No newcomer to public service, Jim chairs Steptoe & Johnson's Public Service Committee, serves as the Treasurer and a Board Member of the Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless, and is on the Board and serves as Secretary for the

Access to Justice Foundation (the fundraising arm for the DC Access to Justice Commission). Jim also serves as Board Chair of the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty.

Jim started his legal career in 1975 as the law clerk for Chief Judge William B. Jones, U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. He then spent 25 years at Miller, Cassidy, Larroca & Lewin, and joined his current firm, Steptoe & Johnson, in April 2004. Jim's primary area of expertise is major commercial insurance coverage disputes.

On his appointment, Jim offered the following: "The Historical Society of the D.C. Circuit is critically important to preserving the wonderful heritage of our federal courts here in D.C. Over the last several years, it has become a model for similar organizations throughout the country, thanks to the support of the Judges and the Society's formidable leadership team. I look forward to joining that team and continuing the vital work of the Society."

[A Glimpse Ahead](#)

in the D. C. Circuit Courts:

October 25, 2018

Taking the stage at the Society's upcoming reception for present and former law clerks and their judges will be three District Court judges who previously served as clerks for judges on the Court on which they now sit - Judges Dabney L. Friedrich, Thomas F. Hogan, and Paul L. Friedman.



We invite all judges and law clerks - past and present - to join us on October 25 at 5 p.m. in the Bryant Atrium to learn how the art of judging is passed along. (Pictured above - 2017 law clerk reception)



Mock Court Program for High School Youth

The Society is looking for volunteer lawyers to help an expected 160 D.C. high school students prepare to argue a case in the E. Barrett Prettyman U.S. Courthouse before federal judges on March 1, 2019. To offer to spend a few hours in late

January and February mentoring a student, please contact Society Vice President Jim Rocap at jrocap@steptoe.com. And join us in the Courthouse on March 1 to watch the students debut as attorneys and share with them and participating judges a pizza lunch in the Courthouse Annex. (Pictured above - Mock Court Program, March 2018)

[Two Newly Released Judicial Oral Histories](#)

The Oral History of Judge David B. Sentelle

How did a self-described "country lawyer" from western North Carolina, who grew up trapping muskrats and frequenting hog killings, end up serving - for thirty-plus years (and still counting) - on the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit? And how did he become a regular poker partner of the (former) Chief Justice of the United States?



Judge David B. Sentelle

can be found in the engrossing [oral history](#) of David B. Sentelle, who served as Chief Judge of the D.C. Circuit from 2008 until 2013. Over the course of seven interviews, Judge Sentelle describes his remarkable career and most significant legal and judicial experiences.

See also an [article](#) about Judge Sentelle written by Society Communications Committee Chair Steven Steinbach, which was drawn from his oral history.



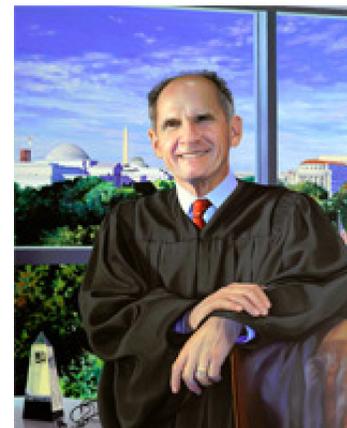
Judge Michael W. Farrell

The Oral History of Judge Michael W. Farrell

For nearly three decades, Michael Farrell has served as a judge on the District of Columbia Court of Appeals. But that was far from an inevitable career choice. In his entertaining and unpretentious [oral history](#), Judge Farrell recounts with relish his so-called “wandering years,” before he gravitated to law as a second career. Eventually, a long stint handling appeals for the Justice Department and in the U.S. Attorney’s Office made him a natural candidate for an appellate judgeship. Not that he finds this role easy, even after many successful years on the bench. So often, observes Judge Farrell, “the difference between right and wrong, between this result and that result, is almost paper thin.” In the end, “you give it the best judgment you can and hope that you’ve got it right. Welcome to the world of judging.”

[Judicial Portrait Donation](#)

Hanging in the U.S. Court of Appeals courtroom and available for viewing is a portrait of Judge David S. Tatel, which was donated to the Court on March 30, 2018. We have added a [photograph of Judge Tatel’s portrait](#) to the Society’s on-line portrait exhibit, which also includes information about Judge Tatel and his portrait artist, Jon Friedman.



Portrait of Judge Tatel

[Historical Articles from the *Bar Association Journal*](#)

41-year period in the monthly *Bar Association Journal*. Take a look: "[Times Have Changed](#)" by F. Regis Noel, "[Bail Reform Act of 1966: A Practitioner's Primer](#)" by Patricia M. Wald and Daniel J. Freed, and "[Equal Justice Under Law](#)" by Edward L. Carey and Abe Fortas. See also "[An Invitation to a Red Mass](#)," author not identified.

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