

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

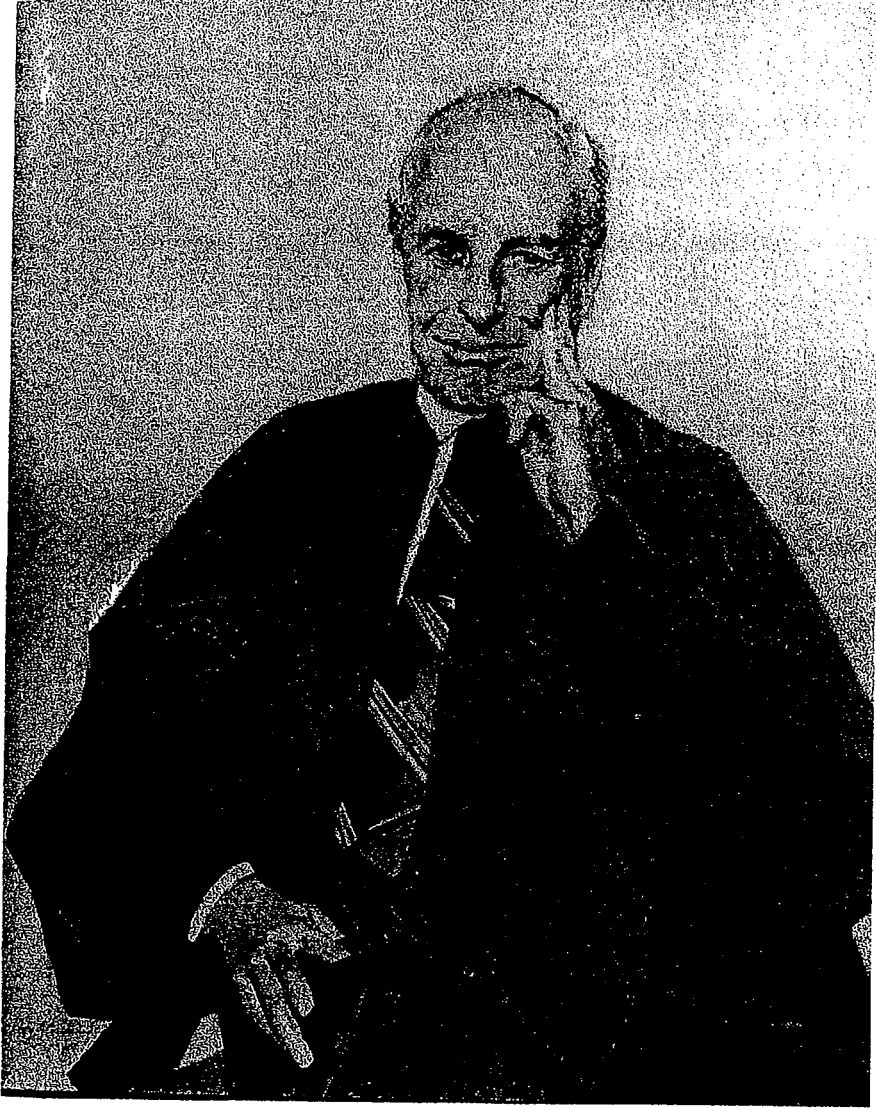
**Presentation of Portrait**

of

**THE HONORABLE WILLIAM B. JONES**

CHIEF JUDGE WILLIAM B. BRYANT  
Presiding

Ceremonial Courtroom  
United States Court House  
Washington, D. C.  
December 11, 1978  
4:00 p.m.



HONORABLE WILLIAM B. JONES

## Presentation of Portrait

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CHIEF JUDGE BRYANT: Good afternoon, friends and admirers of Judge William B. Jones. At our ceremony this afternoon, we are honored with the presence of Chief Judge Wright, of our Circuit Court of Appeals, and several of his colleagues, Judge Tamm, Judge Robinson, Senior Judge Fahy, various members of the local judiciary and members of the Bar.

I have a letter addressed to Mr. Charles Horsky, which reads:

"Dear Charley:

"I regret that a prior commitment makes it impossible to be present at the presentation to the Court of a portrait of Bill Jones.

"Please give Bill my greetings.

"Cordially,"

And it is signed, "W.E.B."

We know that to be the Chief Justice.

We appreciate the note.

Seated directly in front of most of you and of us are Mrs. William B. Jones, the lovely daughter of Judge and Mrs. Jones, Barbara, and some persons who over the years have been very close and dear to their hearts, The Honorable Robert Scott, Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Superior Court, and his wife, Mr. George E. Hamilton, Jr., a legendary figure of the local Bar, Mr. Charles Horsky, a man of great talent in the legal community, and Mrs. Horsky, Mr. Alan Kay and Mr. Dave Barrett, both members of our local Bar, who cut their teeth under the wise supervision of Judge Jones.

At this time the Court recognizes Mr. George E. Hamilton.

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MR. GEORGE E. HAMILTON: If your Honors please, ladies and gentlemen, it is a privilege to have been asked to speak today. I would like to say that I can't imagine anything more delightful than to praise and honor Judge Jones.

I first knew Bill about thirty years ago after the Second World War. We had lost my son, John Hamilton; my father and one other man weren't at all well; and I was left more or less alone in the firm with only untried lawyers and we were in pretty bad shape.

I talked to Bill Leahy and asked if he knew of anyone that might be able to help us out. He told me in a couple of days that he had a suggestion from Justice Stevens, that he had someone in mind and thought it would be well for me to look into it and see if he would be interested in coming into the firm. He said, if I didn't do it, he wanted to take him into his office but he would give me the first chance.

So I immediately got in touch with Judge Stevens and talked to him about Bill. It seemed that Judge Stevens had been appointed at the beginning of the Second World War to the British and American Patent Exchange. He was representing the United States and he asked for someone who could really help him. He went to the Department of Justice and I think the Department of Justice or the State Department suggested Mr. Jones, who was then working in the Department of Justice.

So I talked to Bill and he was willing to come to us. He came in about—my memory is getting a little bit hazy so I have it written down—1946. Within a few months, he was a member of the firm.

He was a great counselor. He was, I think, one of the finest trial lawyers, during that period certainly, and he did great good for us during that period of fifteen years. Bill did the brunt of the work in our firm, practically all of the trial work; and most of our work then was trial work.

He was a great counselor. We missed him when he joined the judgeships but we are greatly honored to have had him as a

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member of the firm and to look backward to the time when he was a member.

Bill is, as you all know, a fine man. He was a great partner. He has been absolutely one of the most dedicated people we have had in the office and he was a great asset to us.

The only time I think I ever disagreed with him, that we ever had any question was one time when I think he thought I was about ten or fifteen or maybe twenty years older than I was then, and I thought he was probably thinking about taking over the firm. He sort of intimated I might retire then. That was about fifteen years ago. That is the only time I think we ever had words at all, Bill.

He has been on the Bench. He has been here, as you all know better than I do.

It is a great honor to have had him as a friend and especially as a partner.

I think he has done a great job for Washington. He has been dedicated all his life in service to either some cause or some purpose. He has been a very religious person. He has had a great asset in a wonderful wife and daughter. I think in every way he is a real friend.

I don't think a lawyer can give higher praise to a judge than to say he is a good judge in all sense of the word.

Thank you.

CHIEF JUDGE BRYANT: Thank you, Mr. Hamilton. Your loss was our gain and we are happy about that.

The Court recognizes Judge Scott.

THE HONORABLE ROBERT M. SCOTT: Chief Judge Bryant, judges of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, Chief Judge Wright, other judges, and guests of the Court: All of us are here today for one purpose and that is to honor Bill Jones.

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Being a participant in this ceremony is somewhat awesome but in candor it is a role I sought, for there are few people if any for whom I have greater respect and affection; and I am confident that my feelings are shared by all of the people here today.

Judge Jones is without doubt a splendid judge, a judge who has deservedly gained our highest respect for his professional competence. But when we have reason to call him to mind, we think of him first as the person, Bill Jones, not as Judge Jones. We think of those personal qualities of his that have attracted us to him; and reflection thereon compels the conclusion that it is indeed those very qualities that make him a great judge.

He is a unique person. First and foremost, he is a man of the highest moral and ethical principles and his faithful adherence to those principles and his integrity are as readily discernible in his professional conduct as in his personal conduct.

To that foundation, add his intellect. Not only does he have a superb knowledge of the law but that knowledge is enhanced perhaps leavened by his familiarity with so many other subjects, history, the arts, sports, to name a few. It may surprise some of you here today that one of his pleasures is that of enjoying the ballet.

Add yet another stone to the structure of Bill Jones, his wonderful warmth and congeniality. Given any gathering, be it one of his colleagues of the Bench, with lawyers at the Bar Association meeting or friends at a social function, one will always find a group of persons around him.

He is truly a remarkable person, a man of integrity, of intelligence and of conviviality. But lest you think I paint too perfect a picture, I will tell you of his negatives or at least a few of them.

He is hopelessly without any mechanical talent, as his wife, Alice, his daughter, Barbara, and his secretary, Mrs. Witt, will attest.

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He is absolutely without humility when it comes to talk of the Notre Dame football teams, as Judges MacKinnon and Walsh will attest.

He is utterly without shame in extending invitations to his numerous friends to partake of another's largess at Judicial Conferences or at other meetings, as I can attest; and as so many can attest, he is without any appreciation whatsoever of the lateness of the hour so long as he has the companionship of his friends.

Chief Judge Bryant, I thank you for the opportunity to be here today.

CHIEF JUDGE BRYANT: Thank you, Judge Scott. We anticipated a fairly candid assessment of Judge Jones from you.

The Court recognizes Mr. Alan Kay.

MR. ALAN KAY: May it please the Court, I am appearing here this afternoon both pro se, Your Honor, and on behalf of all the law clerks of Judge William Blakely Jones.

I might initially state to the Court why I am here as opposed to one of the other law clerks.

Some days ago, Mr. David Barrett, good friend and former law clerk, called me and we were discussing who should appear before the Court to pay tribute to our good friend, Judge Jones.

Dave Barrett suggested perhaps I should appear here. I told him that I didn't think that I was sufficiently articulate or had the qualifications; that many other law clerks were more articulate and more qualified. To my chagrin, he concurred but said that I was the oldest law clerk and I had the most grey hair.

So I am here this afternoon, Your Honor.

It isn't very easy to express in a public courtroom our deep feelings of affection for Judge Jones. Each of our individual feelings are interlaced with emotion.

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As everyone here knows, the relationship between law clerk and judge partakes of both professional and personal relationship. But I think the relationship between Judge Jones and his law clerks went beyond that. We were truly members of his family.

The relationship, I suppose, could be characterized more by deep affection, mutual respect. We learned firsthand that he is a man of great compassion; that he sees the good in people. And I think he brought these attributes with him when he came to the Bench.

I recall fifteen years ago, Your Honor, about two or three days after Judge Jones was sworn in as a judge, we were sitting in his chambers, which were sort of sparse at the time. The Administrative Office had not sent over any furniture and we were sitting on chairs that I had unofficially appropriated from some vacant chambers.

We were talking about the transition from private practice to that of a judge and how sometimes when lawyers become judges, they change their perspective of the Bar. Judge Jones said to me, Alan, you know, I hope as long as I am a judge, I will never forget the fact that I was a practicing lawyer representing clients.

I don't think, Your Honor, that throughout these fifteen years Judge Jones has ever forgotten that. I think the many lawyers around town who have been privileged to appear before him will attest to the fact that he treats them with respect and he treats their clients with respect.

We, the law clerks, are deeply grateful for the opportunity and the privilege to have worked with him and we feel the Bar owes a debt of gratitude to him for his performance on the Bench.

I would just like to conclude by mentioning a conversation that I was privy to a few weeks back. It was at a social gathering. There was a judge from the Superior Court, who is here today, a very close and dear friend of Judge Jones, and another lawyer. This judge was talking about law clerks. He recently had seen the departure of a young brilliant lady who was his law



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clerk, and he said, You know, I received a thank-you note from that law clerk and she signed it, "With love."

The other lawyer said, I find that hard to imagine that a law clerk would express love toward a judge.

We, the law clerks of Judge Jones, Your Honor, would like to go on record, without any sense of embarrassment, that we love this man and we wish him many, many happy years as a Federal District Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit.

Thank you, Your Honor.

CHIEF JUDGE BRYANT: Thank you, Mr. Kay.

Mr. Barrett.

MR. DAVID BARRETT: Chief Judge Bryant, members of the Court, Alan Kay has just disproved the statement which he made about not being the most articulate law clerk that Judge Jones has ever had. It is a fact that he is the oldest and we never miss the opportunity to remind him of that.

Judge, I incorporate by reference everything that Alan has said. You know our feelings for you, our gratitude, our affection and our deep respect.

It is an honor for all of us as law clerks to be here and simply to tell you that the loyalty that you have extended to us over the years is the most important thing that we have as members of the Bar.

Your loyalty to all of us is the thing that we cannot repay to you. We can only say that hopefully in some small way we can pass on to other lawyers, to new lawyers something of what you gave to us.

Your offering us the clerkship and the opportunity to be your clerk, for all of us, was the most important thing that will ever happen to us in our lives as lawyers. We have gratitude for it and we will always remember it.

Thank you, Judge Jones.

Thank you, Your Honor.

CHIEF JUDGE BRYANT: Thank you, Mr. Barrett.

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The Court recognizes Mr. Horsky.

MR. CHARLES HORSKY: May it please the Court, I have the privilege and the honor to present to this honorable Court the portrait of former Chief Judge Jones on behalf of his law clerks and his many, many friends and admirers at the Bar.

I will ask Mrs. Jones and Judge Jones' daughter to please unveil it now.

(Whereupon the portrait was unveiled.)

(Applause)

MR. HORSKY: Your Honor, I would like also to introduce Mr. Lloyd Embry, the artist.

CHIEF JUDGE BRYANT: Thank you very much, Mr. Horsky.

(Applause)

CHIEF JUDGE BRYANT: I am delighted, on behalf of this Court and on my own behalf, to accept for the Court this extraordinary portrait of Judge Jones, our esteemed and beloved colleague.

As most of you know, Judge Jones, who was one of our most distinguished local lawyers, came on the Court back in 1962. For me to extol the virtues of our colleague here would in truth be carrying coals to Newcastle. You already know what I would say; and that is attested to by the fact that you are here.

The Court appreciates your coming. All I can say on behalf of the members of the Court and myself is that we have great gratitude for those who contributed to and saw to it that we received this portrait.

I also know that Judge Jones' family is somewhat overwhelmed with it. As a matter of fact, we are contemplating tightening up the security of the Court House because I understand that Mrs. Jones hasn't really reconciled herself to the fact that we should have it.

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Judge Jones, I think everybody is in agreement that the likeness is extraordinary. We congratulate you. We appreciate your feelings and I hope you appreciate ours.

Let us have a word, please.

THE HONORABLE WILLIAM B. JONES: Thank you, Chief Judge Bryant.

I would be well advised to quit while I am ahead, before the truth comes out. I do want to say a very few words and I want to say them particularly in appreciation to those who have made this presentation possible, the members of the Bar under the leadership of Charles Horsky and Dave Barrett.

I appreciate very much being hung with the rest of the judges.

You know in Montana, in old Virginia City, there is a place called Boot Hill. That is where the vigilantes did their hanging and they always invited the victim. When I heard Charley Horsky had sent out an invitation here, I thought maybe it was a vigilante party and I didn't know whether I would even go. I do appreciate it. Thank you very much, Charley.

I also want to thank my colleagues of this Court who have been so good to me over the years for their kindness and the other judges who are assembled here today.

I particularly want to say a word or two to a very, very talented artist—he had to be; you can see that—Mr. Embry. I have never worked with an artist before and I didn't know how you approached the subject.

Several months ago when there was presented to the District of Columbia Court of Appeals a portrait of then retired Chief Judge Reilly, Judge Reilly was explaining that he, too, was apprehensive about meeting with Mr. Embry, who did his portrait, until he found out that Mr. Embry went to Yale. Of course, Judge Reilly having gone to Harvard, he said, We had no trouble at all.

Well, of course, not being of the privileged few, that didn't strengthen my belief that I was going to get along well with

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Mr. Embry. But I found out that you didn't have to go to Harvard; you didn't have to go to Yale. Mr. Embry can talk freely and at some length and sing some songs that are about as old as music itself. I will tell you that.

One thing I did learn, that like a trial lawyer and a trial judge; or anyone else engaged in professionally doing the best job possible, with a portrait artist such as Mr. Embry—who is a very gifted, talented man—at least fifty per cent of the work is perspiration and the balance inspiration.

I thank you all very, very much. You are very kind to be here today. Thank you.

CHIEF JUDGE BRYANT: Thank you, Judge Jones.

Thank you for coming.

The Court stands adjourned.

MR. HORSKY: Your Honor, may I inform everyone that refreshments are being served across the hall in the judges' dining room.

CHIEF JUDGE BRYANT: Right opposite the elevators to your right.

MR. HORSKY: You are all invited.

(Whereupon at 4:30 p. m., the presentation ceremony was concluded.)