



Historical Society of the District of Columbia Circuit

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**Judge Rudolph Contreras with
outstanding advocate, Elisabeth
Betts, Maret.**

15 YEARS OF STUDENT ADVOCACY: THE SOCIETY'S MOCK COURT PROGRAM

On March 6, 2020, 135 D.C. high school students arrived in the Courthouse, ready to argue a case before a federal judge. Each student, whether enrolled at Maret, McKinley Tech, School Without Walls, Washington Latin, or Woodson had arguments ready to present in either a First or Fourth Amendment case after having worked with a volunteer attorney and classroom teacher to prepare.

Each of the ten participating judges questioned the students appearing in her/his courtroom, forcing many to go off script and demonstrate their understanding of the issues involved in the case. Each judge then had the challenging job of selecting the most outstanding advocate from a group of newly seasoned litigants.

In the Historical Society's 15th year of encouraging high school students to learn how lawyers prepare and argue cases in court, students were eager to participate. In fact, some admitted that they might even consider a life in the law one day.

With kudos to each student who had the courage to stand up and argue in court, the advocates with the strongest presentations were: Elisabeth Betts, Maret; Christina Carter, Woodson; Leah Hornsby, School Without Walls; Cole Kalenak, McKinley Tech; Alexandra Diaz Merida, School Without Walls; Daveed Partlow, McKinley Tech; Ada Pryor, McKinley Tech; Matthew Rebour, School Without Walls; Mendel Socolovsky, School Without Walls; and Luke Tewalt, Washington Latin.

The Society thanks all the students for participating, the teachers who gave them encouragement, and the volunteer lawyers who visited the schools and helped them craft their arguments. Special thanks to the judges who spent a morning peppering the students with questions and demonstrating how the judicial system works: Chief Judge Beryl Howell and Judges Rudolph Contreras, Ketanji Jackson, Christopher Cooper, Tanya Chutkan, Randolph Moss and Reggie Walton; Magistrate Judges Deborah Robinson and G. Michael Harvey; and Federal Circuit Judge William Bryson. And thanks to Society President, Jim Rocap, who devotes hours each year to planning and implementing each detail of each Mock Court Program.



Judge Christopher Cooper with outstanding advocate Christina Carter, H.D. Woodson



Magistrate Judge Deborah Robinson with outstanding advocate Cole Kalenak, McKinley Tech.

JUST AHEAD

June 11, 2020: Revisit *United States v. Microsoft Corp.*



Issues that arose in *United States v. Microsoft Corp.* are as relevant today as they were when they were argued before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit sitting en banc in 2001. Those issues will be addressed in a re-enactment of the oral arguments in the *Microsoft* case and a panel discussion that follows, on June 11, 2020, in the Ceremonial Courtroom.

The program will begin with an overview of the *Microsoft* case and the legal background presented by Douglas Melamed, Professor of Law, Stanford Law School, after which Kristin Limarzi, Gibson Dunn, and David Gelfand, Cleary Gottlieb, will re-enact oral arguments on one of the issues in the case, before Judges David Tatel and Douglas Ginsburg who were members of the en banc Court. A panel discussion,

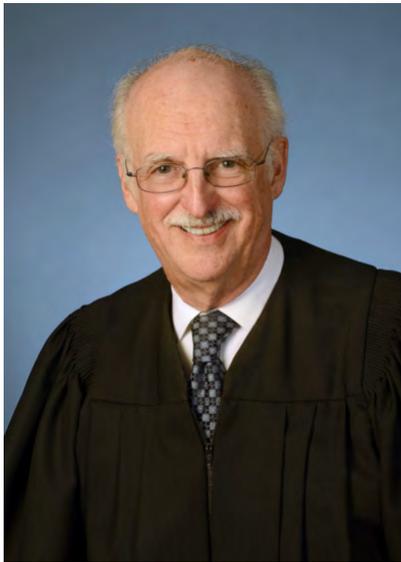
moderated by Bill Baer, former head of the Antitrust Division, now at the Brookings Institution, will follow. Participants in the panel discussion, in addition to Professor Melamed, will be David Frederick, Kellogg Huber; Howard Shelanski, Georgetown University Law Center; and Christine Varney, Cravath, Swaine & Moore.

Join the Society and members of the D.C. Circuit Courts for this exciting program at 4:30 p.m. on June 11, 2020, in the Ceremonial Courtroom of the E. Barrett Prettyman U.S. Courthouse. There is no charge and everyone is welcome. A reception will follow the program.

November 18, 2020: Law Clerk Reception

The Society will hold its annual reception honoring current and former law clerks who have served in the D.C. Circuit Courts on Wednesday, November 18 at 5 p.m. For now, please hold the date. Information about the program will follow.

THE SOCIETY'S ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION EXPANDS



Read the Oral History of Former Chief Judge Douglas H. Ginsburg

“One of the most significant intellectual forces on the federal bench during the last three decades.”

Judge Douglas Ginsburg is so described by Washington attorney Daniel Marcus, who conducted and here summarizes [Judge Ginsburg's oral history](#). In the oral history, the Judge not only describes the most significant cases he decided over his thirty-plus years, but also recounts his path to the federal bench, via academia (at Harvard Law School, specializing in antitrust) and service in the Reagan

administration (at DOJ and OMB, focusing on regulatory reform and antitrust policy).

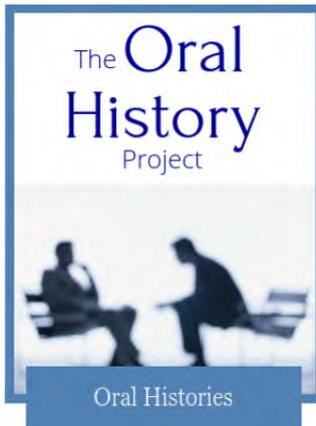
Not the least of his significant judicial accomplishments: Judge Ginsburg, while serving as Chief Judge of the D.C. Circuit, presided over the construction of the new wing of the federal courthouse, now the Judge Bryant Atrium.

Remembering Judge Sporkin through his Oral History

The Historical Society mourns the recent death of [U.S. District Judge Stanley Sporkin](#).

The Historical Society sponsored the taking of Judge Sporkin's oral history. The Judge donated

his history to the Society and placed it under seal until his death. The Society will shortly make the transcript of Judge Sporkin's oral history available on its website. Bound copies of the history will also be available at the Society's three repositories: the Library of Congress, the Historical Society of Washington, D.C. and the Judges' Library in the E. Barrett Prettyman U.S. Courthouse.



Highlights from some of the Society's Oral Histories

Read some of the most memorable segments of -- and quotes from -- six of the oral histories the Society has sponsored: [Circuit Judge Bork](#), [District Judges Flannery, Pratt](#), and [Richey](#), and prosecuting attorneys [Roger Adelman](#) and [Hank Schuelke](#).

MEET DAWN BELLINGER, THE SOCIETY'S WEBSITE DESIGNER

A fascination with the internet led Dawn Bellinger, designer of the Historical Society's website, to leave a secure job in defense contracting to explore the opportunities the internet offered. Instead of returning to school, she immersed herself in on-line courses, webinars, and conferences and read broadly until she felt ready to offer her services building new websites for friends at no cost so long as she could experiment with new software platforms and expand her knowledge and skills.



Five years later, she was ready to create an LLC to help small businesses and non-profits build new sites. For help she turned to an ever-changing group of young people in, or just out of, college with high technical proficiencies, who crave part-time work and who, as part of the "gig" economy, work multiple jobs, often remotely, on their own schedule. One example: a skilled programmer who Dawn met online as he treks

around the world, stopping in coffee shops to operate his laptop. Their four-year work arrangement benefits them both, and they have never met!

Dawn's company, Small Bytes, works with a variety of businesses and non-profits. Her current portfolio includes four churches, two landscape architects, two artists, two clothing stores, two women's heritage societies, two college counseling businesses, a foundation, and an interior decorator.

Of the Society's website, Dawn said, "One year post-launch, I'm still very happy with the design but would like to tweak a few things on the Home page in particular. We will also be looking at the Search function to see if there's a way to make it more relevant and efficient. Overall, I think, the best part of the Society's website is that the content is so interesting -- especially the oral histories!

**Historical Society of the District of
Columbia Circuit**

E. Barrett Prettyman United States Courthouse
333 Constitution Avenue, NW., Room 4714
Washington, DC 20001-2866
202-216-7346
www.dchc.org



[Email Us](#)