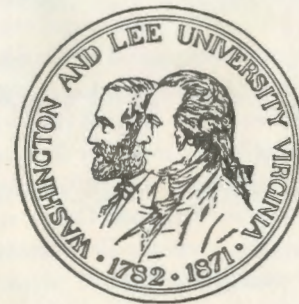




WASHINGTON AND LEE
UNIVERSITY

FINALS

THE SEVENTH ANNUAL JOHN W. DAVIS
MOOT COURT COMPETITION



Lewis Hall

November 14, 1986

4:15 p.m.

John W. Davis

"Of all the persons who appeared before the Court in my time there was never anybody more elegant, more clear, more concise, or more logical than John W. Davis."

—*Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.*

John W. Davis graduated from Washington and Lee in 1892. In 1894 Davis returned to Washington and Lee for law school. Nine months later he received his LL.B. and was elected class orator. During the 1896-1897 academic year, Davis again returned to Washington and Lee and taught commercial law, contracts, federal procedure and equity pleading.

In 1899 Davis was elected to the West Virginia House of Delegates and in 1910 to the U.S. House of Representatives. From 1913 to 1918 Davis served as U.S. Solicitor General and was one of President Woodrow Wilson's advisers at the Peace Conference following World War I. Davis also served as ambassador to Great Britain (1918-1921) after which he became head of a prominent Wall Street law firm and was elected President of the American Bar Association. In 1922 Davis rejected an overture to accept appointment to the Supreme Court; then in 1924, he reluctantly became the Democratic nominee for President. Upon his loss to Calvin Coolidge, Davis returned to private practice.

By his death in 1955 Davis had argued 141 cases before the Supreme Court, more than anyone in the twentieth century. Only two nineteenth-century lawyers, Walter Jones and Daniel Webster, argued more. The capstone of Davis' career was his victory in 1952 when the Supreme Court ruled that President Truman had exceeded his constitutional powers in seizing control of the nation's steel mills. *Youngstown Sheet & Tube Co. v. Sawyer*, 343 U.S. 579 (1952).

THE PARTICIPANTS

Counsel for Petitioner
Michael Rossignol, Richard Parr

Counsel for Respondent
John Vita, Richard Whalen

THE COURT

THE HONORABLE ROSCOE B. STEPHENSON
(Virginia State Supreme Court)

THE HONORABLE J. HARVIE WILKINSON
(U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, 4th Circuit)

THE HONORABLE ELLSWORTH A. VANGRAAFEILAND
(U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, 2nd Circuit)

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David Carson
Katherine Hogan

Kurt Krauss
Louise Senft

The Honorable Roscoe B. Stephenson

Justice Stephenson was born in Covington, Virginia on February 22, 1922. He graduated from Washington and Lee University in 1943, and received his law degree from the Washington and Lee School of Law in 1947. Justice Stephenson practiced law in Covington until 1973. In that year he became Judge of the Virginia Circuit Court for the Twenty-fifth Judicial Circuit. He served in this capacity until his election by the Virginia legislature to its Supreme Court in 1984.

The Honorable Ellsworth A. VanGraafeiland

Judge VanGraafeiland was born on May 11, 1915 in Rochester, New York. He graduated from the University of Rochester in 1937, and he received his law degree from Cornell University in 1940. Judge VanGraafeiland practiced law in Rochester from 1940 until 1974. In that year, he was appointed to the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

The Honorable James Harvie Wilkinson, III

Judge Wilkinson was born in New York, New York on September 29, 1944. He graduated from Yale University in 1967 and received his law degree from the University of Virginia School of Law in 1972. From 1972 to 1973, Judge Wilkinson was the law clerk for the Hon. Lewis F. Powell, Jr. of the United States Supreme Court. Judge Wilkinson was a member of the faculty at the University of Virginia School of Law from 1973 until 1978, and in 1984 he was appointed to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.

Best Oralist →

1 John V. ...
2d. W. ...
3rd Rich ...
4th ...