

Inside the Court: Eyewitness Accounts

Justice Stephen Breyer

Former Justice Breyer Law Clerks Share Perspectives on His Retirement

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Ted Ruger (1997): "Justice Breyer was a brilliant thinker and brought to the Supreme Court deep curiosity about, and respect for, facts about the real world and the way it operates. No Justice in history learned more from, and deferred more to, insights from science, medicine, economics, and other disciplines. In an era when we prize cross-disciplinary thought in the academy, Justice Breyer was the quintessential interdisciplinary jurist."

Jacques deLisle: "Justice Breyer (for whom I clerked when he was Chief Judge of the First Circuit) embodies a rare set of qualities that have made him an extraordinary jurist during his four decades on the bench. To be sure, a liberal—in the sense in which we now use that term to describe judges—but never an adherent to a rigid ideology. Possessed of an exceptionally keen intellect and the academic depth of the law professor he long was, yet, as many have noted, unfailingly pragmatic in his approach to weighty issues and to working with his colleagues. A deep believer in institutions and process and well-intentioned elite and experts, but acutely aware of the need to constrain and inform their actions with bounding principles, at times enforced by courts."

SOURCE : <https://penntoday.upenn.edu/news/former-justice-breyer-law-clerks-share-perspectives-his-retirement>