Society Celebrates Fifteenth Annual Meeting

The fifteenth Annual Meeting of the Supreme Court Historical Society was held on Monday, May 14, 1990. The day-long program of activities included the Annual Lecture, open house, private tour of the Supreme Court building, Trustees Meeting and Annual Meeting of the General Membership. The traditional reception and formal dinner concluded the 1990 meeting.

The first event, the lecture, was delivered by Retired Justice Lewis F. Powell, Jr. before a large crowd assembled in the Supreme Court chamber. Justice Powell prefaced his prepared remarks saying, "President Justin A. Stanley has given great leadership" to the Society, so much so that the "Supreme Court Historical Society has become a very important component of the Supreme Court."

The subject of Justice Powell's speech was George Wythe, who was appointed the first professor of law in this country by (then) Governor Thomas Jefferson. As Justice Powell explained, "Wythe was a towering figure in our history, not in the sense of holding the highest offices, but because of his influence on those who did." It is difficult, Powell explained, to leave an enduring reputation without holding office, "nevertheless, Wythe was admired, even revered, in his time."

"His teaching career is perhaps best known. Few, if any, teachers in our history have taught such an exceptional group of students. In addition to Jefferson, there were John Marshall; Henry Clay; John Breckinridge, who became Jefferson's Attorney General; Judge Spencer Roane, famous for his opinion in Kamper v. Hawkins, that anticipated Marbury v. Madison; and he taught numerous other persons of prominence in and after the revolutionary era.

"The tutelage under Wythe was the equivalent for Jefferson of the most demanding university education, far more than what is called a university education today."

Although Wythe was mainly self-taught, he acquired a commanding knowledge of the law. "Jefferson recalled one minor case, long since forgotten, in which Wythe fired a bewildering barrage of authorities at his adversary. He cited Virginia and British statutes, decisions of the British courts, sections of Justinian's Roman Code, and Cicero's Orations. [C]omparable erudition is rarely heard even in arguments before the Supreme Court of the United States."

Wythe "was a conspicuous leader in Virginia. Wythe was no Patrick Henry urging revolution, but he did assume leadership when it became clear that British policy was inflexible and unjust. Though he was the last of the seven Virginians to sign the Declaration of Independence, Wythe wrote his name above the other six signatures."

Wythe sought to enlist in the revolutionary regiment, but the then forty-nine-year-old lawyer was gently rejected. "Happily, -continued on page ten.
A Letter from the President

The Officers for the coming year are: Justin A. Stanley, President; Alice L. O'Donnell, First Vice President; J. Rodney Heller, Jr., Frank C. Jones, David Lloyd Koeger, Melvin M. Payne, E. Barrett Prettyman, Jr. and Leon Silverman, Vice Presidents; Virginia Warren Dailey, Secretary; Peter A. Knowles, Treasurer.

Serving on the Executive Committee, in addition to the Officers and committee chairpersons will be: Lawrence H. Averill, Jr.; William T. Coleman, Jr.; Dwight D. Opperman and M. Truman Woodward, Jr.; At-Large Members.

In other business, our membership is at an all-time high; on May 14, 1990, it was 3,428. Further, we have raised $1,600,000 toward our endowment goal of $2,500,000 net, which we hope to achieve by the next Annual Meeting in May of 1991.

All Standing Committees and some Special Committees are busy and are almost at full complement. As we plan and start to implement additional programs, we should have a busy and fruitful year ahead.

At the dinner, the establishment of the Hughes - Gossett Endowment Fund Donors of $25,000 as a study of the Limitations and Proper Basis of Judicial Action. Justice White presented a special award to Grier D. Stephenson to honor his fifteenth year of contributing to the Yearbook.

As usual, many more members wanted to attend the dinner than we could accommodate. As we grow in numbers, the problem of accommodating all who want to attend will, I am afraid, increase rather than diminish.

Our entertainment was provided by the Strolling Strings of the U.S. Army Band and the Alexandria Harmonizers. Both groups were good and they were received enthusiastically. Chief Judge Howard J. Markey, who is the Chairman of the Annual Meeting Committee, and I, with the Society's Assistant Director Kathleen Shurtleff, in charge of the dinner, is to be commended for a job well done.

I am pleased to have the privilege of serving as your President for another year.

Endowment Fund Donors of $25,000 as of June 15, 1990

Individuals:
- Mr. S. Howard Goldman
- Mr. William T. Gossett
- Mr. David Lloyd Koeger
- Mr. Jeremiah Marsh
- Mr. Dwight Opperman
- Mr. Bernard G. Segal
- Mr. Justin A. Stanley

Law Firms:
- Altheimer & Gray
- Arnold & Porter
- Breed, Abbott & Mogan
- Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton
- Covington & Burling
- Cravath, Swaine & Moore
- Davis, Polk & Wardwell
- Freeman & Hawkins
- Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson
- Hogan & Hartson
- Hunton & Williams
- Jones, Day, Reavis & Pogue
- King & Spalding
- Mayer Brown & Platt
- Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy
- O'Melveny & Myers
- Oppenheimer, Wolff & Donnelly

The Supreme Court Historical Society
Quarterly
Published four times yearly by the Supreme Court Historical Society, 111 Second Street N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002. Tel. (202) 543-0400.
Distributed to members of the Society, law libraries, interested individuals and professional associations.

Editor: Alice L. O'Donnell
Managing Editor: Kathleen Shurtleff
Assistant Editor: Barbara R. Lentz
Consulting Editors: Kenneth S. Geller
E. Barrett Prettyman, Jr.

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The evening of March 6, 1990 marked the unveiling of a new portrait of Justice Hugo L. Black. The painting was commissioned by the former clerks of Justice Black under the leadership of a small committee comprised of John P. Frank, George C. Freeman, Jr. and Frank M. Wozencraft. Each former clerk was asked to contribute to a portrait fund to underwrite the costs. The leadership committee consisted of Hugo L. Black, Jr. to ask him for suggestions for an artist to fulfill this commission. He recommended John Black, the son of Sterling Black, and Justice Black's grandson. John Black is a professional painter and sculptor whose works include a bronze bust of "the Judge," as former clerks and others fondly call Justice Black, which is displayed in the Birmingham, Alabama federal courthouse building dedicated to Justice Black. John decided to base the portrait on an etching which appeared on a five-cent commemorative stamp issued by the Postal Service in 1986 honoring the centennial of Justice Black's birth. John Black came to Washington to meet with Gail Galloway, Curator of the Supreme Court, and Society staff to search through thousands of photographic images which might be helpful in producing the portrait. He also examined the collection of portraits of former Justices which hang in the Supreme Court building. Armed with photographs and information such as specific size requirements for display in the building, John returned to Albuquerque to begin work on the portrait.

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Under the direction of Messrs. Frank, Freeman and Wozencraft, the necessary funds were donated to the Society to pay for the portrait, with a small balance left over to help defray the costs of maintenance of the portrait over the coming years. In celebration of the completion of the portrait, the clerks organized a dinner which was held in the Supreme Court on the evening of March 6, 1990. On that occasion members of the Black family, Justices of the Supreme Court, all former clerks and their spouses, former secretaries to Justice Black, and representatives of the Historical Society were present to witness the official unveiling of the portrait. Mr. Freeman acted as Master of Ceremonies for the brief program. His comments conveyed the warm feelings of friendship which exist between the former clerks and the Black family, who refer to clerks as the "extended Black family." Mr. Freeman invited John Black to unveil the portrait. The unveiling was greeted with applause and enthusiasm.

On behalf of the clerks, Mr. Freeman officially presented the portrait to Dean Erwin Griswold, who accepted the portrait for the Society. Dean Griswold thanked Mr. Freeman and the clerks and quipped that "Harriet and I will take it right home and hang it over the mantle." He commented on the significance of the portrait, noting that it would be an important addition to the collection of official portraits on display to the hundreds of thousands of yearly visitors to the Supreme Court. He said that these visits would be greatly enriched by the visual representation of former members of the Court.

The Dean reminisced about his memories of arguing in the Supreme Court before Justice Black. Griswold noted that "the Judge" had asked him piercing questions from the bench on several occasions which caused him some concern. He mentioned specifically arguing in the Watergate tape case. He said he had tapes of his argument during the case that he listened to occasionally. He noted that, while he considered his arguments in the case "pretty good," he had been asked some troublesome questions from the bench by Justice Black. This comment drew appreciative laughter from the clerks who all remembered their own experiences with difficult questions from "the Judge." The Dean noted that listening to Justice Black's voice on the tape brought back some of the discomfort he had experienced in the Court Room and also prompted him to think of responses he wished he had been able to make at the time. He noted, somewhat wryly, that he had lost that case.

In conclusion, Dean Griswold again expressed his appreciation to the clerks, personally and on behalf of the Society, for their generosity and public service in making the portrait available for viewing. Dean Griswold pledged the Society's continuing support of the Supreme Court and officially presented the portrait to the President of the Historical Society, Byron H. White, who accepted the portrait on behalf of the Court for display in the Supreme Court building.

Justice White thanked Dean Griswold and the former clerks for their roles in making it a reality. Studying the portrait carefully, Justice White said he had frequently seen Justice Black in such a contemplative pose during conference when he was discussing his viewpoints on important cases. Justice White then commented on Dean Griswold's reminiscences about arguing before the Supreme Court and quipped that he was glad the Dean had had the opportunity that evening to "reargue" the case.

Many members of the Black family, as former clerks to Justice Hugo Black gathered on March 6 for the portrait unveiling. (Above, from left to right) J. Vernon Patrick, Jr., LCDR, son of Justice Hugo L. Black; Hugo L. Black, Jr.; Sylvia Patrick; Hugo L. Black, II; and Graham Black were among those attending the ceremony.

Photographs on this and the following page by Lois Long, from the Collection of the Supreme Court of the United States.

1991 - 92 Judicial Fellows Program

During its seventy-year history, the Judicial Fellows Program has consistently attracted exceptionally talented people capable of making significant contributions to the administration of justice. Each year, two or three fellows are chosen to spend one year working with officials in the judicial branch of government. With assignments at the Supreme Court, the Federal Judicial Center, and, in some years, the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, the Fellows are involved in a wide range of projects related to the operation of the federal courts and the responsibilities of the judiciary.

Founded by Retired Chief Justice Warren E. Burger in 1973, the Program is designed to provide promising individuals with a first-hand understanding of the workings of government and, in particular, of the judiciary. The Fellows participate in the ongoing work of the branch, and they are provided with numerous opportunities that allow them to gain a broader perspective on the dynamics of interbranch relations.

Like its counterparts in the executive and legislative branches (The White House Fellows Programs and the Congressional Fellows Program), the Judicial Fellows Program promotes a continuing contribution to the public interest by its Fellows after completion of their year in Washington, D.C. Many former Judicial Fellows have pursued that goal in academia, and others have done so in government, private business, law practice, and as members of the judiciary.

The Judicial Fellows Program seeks outstanding individuals from diverse fields. Backgrounds of Fellows previously selected include political science, public and business administration, economics, the behavioral sciences, operations research and systems analysis, and journalism, as well as law.

The needs of the judiciary and its interests and capabilities of the Fellows selected will determine assignments and projects. In addition, numerous educational and social opportunities are available to broaden the Fellowship experience.

The Fellowship is ordinarily for one year, beginning in September. The exact duration of the Fellowship is subject to mutual agreement between the Fellow and the Executive Director of the Fellow Program.

Fellowship stipends are based on salaries for comparable government work and on individual salary histories but will not exceed the GS-15, step 3 level, presently $63,164.

Appointment for the Judicial Fellowship is intense. The Program is designed for professionals in the early stages of their career development who will receive long-term benefits from the experience and who will contribute to the improvement of the judicial process both during and after the fellowship. Candidates should have one or more postgraduate degrees and at least two years of professional experience with a record of high performance.

Information about the Judicial Fellows Program and application procedure is available from Vanessa Yarnall, Administrative Director, Judicial Fellows Program, Supreme Court of the United States, Room 5, Washington, D.C. 20543. The application deadline is November 15, 1990.
The Supreme Court: 1790 to 1990
by Priscilla Goodwin

February 3, 1790 is a significant date in Supreme Court history, for the Court first met on that day in the Royal Exchange Building in New York City, then the capital city. Chief Justice John Jay and Associate Justices William Cushing and James Wilson convened but immediately had to adjourn until the next day as they were one Justice shy of a quorum. On February 2, Justice John Blair arrived from Virginia, and with four members present, the Supreme Court was open for business. Since the federal court system had just been established, no cases were before the Court during this first term. Over the next two weeks the Justices held short sessions during which they appointed a court crier and clerk, decided upon the Court's official seal, and admitted attorneys to the Supreme Court Bar.

An exhibit celebrating the bicentennial of the Supreme Court is on display in the Supreme Court building. The Supreme Court: 1790-1990 covers the Court's history from its establishment in the Constitution to the present. Two hundred plus objects are arranged thematically, covering the Court's establishment, first Justices, first Session, circuit riding, the Supreme Court Bar, former and current homes of the Court, the Court's work, significant cases, traditions, the membership of the Court, and writing arms. Changes in the Court's work over the last two hundred years.

Created by the Supreme Court's Office of the Curator, the exhibit uses documents, engravings, photographs, portraits and busts, furniture and objects that belonged to the Justices to tell the story of the Supreme Court.

The exhibit's initial artifact is Justice Pierce Butler's copy of the draft of the Constitution, with notes he made in the margins during the debates of the Constitutional convention. The signers of the Constitution left it to the first federal Congress to set up any lower federal courts it deemed necessary and to decide many details of the federal court system. Congress passed the Judiciary Act in September 1789. This major piece of legislation established the basic structure of the federal court system we have today, with district and appellate courts below the Supreme Court. The first and last pages of the Judiciary Act of 1789, signed by President George Washington, are on display in the exhibit. Oliver Ellsworth's chair, with writing arm attached, calls to mind the significance of his role in the drafting of the Judiciary Act. As one of Connecticut's first U.S. Senators, Ellsworth led the committee which wrote the Judiciary Act. Ellsworth was later to be the third Chief Justice of the United States.

A chair, with writing arm attached, that belonged to Chief Justice Oliver Ellsworth (above) is included in the bicentennial exhibit. Photo taken from a portrait by Charles Loring Elliot that hangs in the Supreme Court building.

Circuit riding was quite hazardous in the early days of the Court. A journey in the Phoenix Line "Safety Coach" (drawing above) from Baltimore to Washington, D.C. took five hours to complete.

1789:
Congress decided at first to fix the number of justices at six.

1801:
Congress planned on a chance to five, but the six remained very much alive.

1807:
Seven high judges, supreme as heaven — and Jefferson added number seven.

1857:
Nine high judges were sitting when Lincoln made them an even ten.

1863:
Ten high judges, very sedate; when Congress got through there were only eight.

1866:
Grant brought the figure back to nine.

1869:
Eight high judges who wouldn't resign: but Congress decided at first to fix the number of justices at six.

1937:
Wold a Justice feel like a packed sardine if the number was raised to — say — fifteen?
The following members have joined the Society between March 12 and June 1, 1990.

California

Anthony M. Fitzgerald, New Haven
Charles T. Goretich, Woodbridge
Thomas J. Groark Jr., Hartford
Paul Krag, Stamford
Richard McGrath, Stamford
Francis P. Schiaroli, Stamford
John F. Spindler, Stamford
Shawn S. Sullivan, New Haven
George G. Vost, New Canaan
Frederic H. Weisberg, Stamford
Erick W. Wittschmann, Hartford
William P. Yelenak, New Haven

District of Columbia

Richard H. Baker
Maurice A. Barbour
John H. Biselser
Robert W. Bishop
Lindy Boggs
Christian Scott Booth
John B. Breuns
William B. Cowen
Richard D'Avino
Daniel H. DuVal
Mark E. Eulson
Danny B. Fogleman
Jimmy Hayes
Jerry Hackaday
J. Bennett Johnston
Mark A. Kuller
Bruce K. Lagomarsino
Jackie S. Levinson
Abbot B. Lipsky Jr.
Robert L. Livingston
William S. McKee
Judith Miller
Eugene M. Pfeiffer
James J. Regan
Katherine L. Rhymes
John R. Richer Jr.
Marcus A. Rowden
J. Sedwick Sollers III
W. J. Tazin
Michael P. Taylor

Hawaii

Nicholas C. Dreher, Honolulu

Idaho

William McCurdy, Boise

Indiana

D. Michael Bowman, Indianapolis
David F. Evans, Indianapolis
John W. Graub, Indianapolis
Richard Kammen, Indianapolis
David W. Mertzlitz, Indianapolis
Gordon E. Tabor, Indianapolis

Iowa

William C. Davidson, Davenport
David A. Dotman, Davenport
James F. Hayes, Iowa City
Thomas M. Kamp, Davenport
Richard M. MacMahon, Davenport
Charles Miller, Davenport
William T. Tucker, Iowa City

Kansas

Kansas

Robert A. Barber, Lawrence
Don W. Boxzwick, Wichita
Wesley E. Brown, Wichita
Bernard E. Nordling, Hugoton
James L. Postma, Lawrence

Louisiana

Ben Bagert Jr., New Orleans
V.J. Belas, Franklin
Roy Brown, Shreveport
Emile Brunet Jr., New Orleans
Carl N. Crane, Baton Rouge
Quentin Dastague, Metairie
James Doncel, Metairie
John C. Ewing, Monroe
Glenda C. Fain, Baton Rouge
Gary Forney, New Orleans
Robert T. Garrity Jr., Harahan
E. Clark Gaudin, Baton Rouge
Terry Geo, New Orleans

John J. Hinkle, New Orleans
Kernan Hand, Kenner
Gary L. Hinton, Shreveport
Ken Hollis, Metairie
Ralph L. Kardell Jr., New Orleans
Charles D. Landauer Jr., Metairie
Kenneth Osterberger, Baton Rouge
David E. Pirtle, Gretna
David S. Rubin, Baton Rouge
Leslie Schiff, Opelousas
Ed Seogin, Slidell
Art Smith, Shreveport
James V. St. Raymond, New Orleans
Vic Steely, Lake Charles
Fritz W. Windhorst, Gretna

Maryland

Eugene R. Fishel, Bethesda
Julia W. Willis, Bethesda

Massachusetts

Charles R. Desmarais, New Bedford
Thomas D. Dunin, Lynn
Edward L. Donnellan, Springfield
Francis H. Fox, Boston
Morris M. Goldberg, Boston
Charles M. Goodwin, Newton
David A. McGough, New Bedford
James F. Meehan, Boston
Camille F. Saracco, Boston
Lewis H. Weinstein, Boston
John A. Wickstrom, Winthrop

Michigan

Jules Hanouloz, East Lansing
Alex D. Rogers, Birmingham

Minnesota

R. Carl Moyer, Minneapolis
Robert P. Sando, Minneapolis
Robert R. Whipple, Minneapolis

Missouri

James D. Ellin, St. Louis
William E. Jaques, St. Louis

New Mexico

James L. Brandenburg, Albuquerque

New York

George Cherpelin, Albuquerque
Roger V. Eaton, Albuquerque
Gary L. Gorton, Albuquerque
Bruce Hall, Albuquerque
Alan Konrad, Albuquerque
William C. Marchiondo, Albuquerque
Marshall G. Martin, Albuquerque
Ranee B. Miller, Albuquerque
H. Vira Payse, Albuquerque
Paul W. Robinson, Albuquerque
Catherine B. Stefancin, Albuquerque

Mary

Walter Barthold, New York
Barbara Arouce Black, New York
Leighton R. Burns, Utica
Anthony J. Caputo, White Plains
Jesse Clancy, Hewitt
Robert Connors, New York
Alexander C. Cordes, Buffalo
Michael A. Cooper, New York
Sanford G. Druflu, Pearl River
Thomas W. Evans, New York
Robert F. Fiske Jr., New York
Joseph M. Fitzpatrick, New York
Richard M. Gerndt, Albany
Richard Godosky, New York
John F. Keenan, Rochester
Boris Kostelanetz, New York
William J. Jankowski, Fieldston
Graham A. Liapis, New York
Mackenzie Smith Lewis et al., Syracuse
Carol J. Mealey, Loundounville
James V. Ryan, Rye
Merritt E. Vaughan, Utica

Oregon

George L. Kirkland, Portland

Pennsylvania

Michael S. Diener, Bryn Mawr
Steven D. Franko, Villanova
Jay Lee, Allentown
Francis E. McGill Jr., Philadelphia
Frank E. McGill III, Philadelphia
Guy N. Vulano, Dunmore

Tennessee

James E. Brading, Johnson City
C. George Caudle, Chattanooga
J. Paul Coleman, Johnson City
Jerry C. Colley, Columbia

Texas

Martin J. Cirkel, Huston
J. Chris Dougherty, Austin
William D. Powell, Dallas
Eddy J. Rogers Jr., Houston

Utah

D. Gary Christensen, Salt Lake City
H. James Clegg, Salt Lake City

Virginia

M. Caldwell Barber, Roanoke
Bayard Harris, Roanoke
James W. Jennings Jr., Roanoke
John T. Jesses, Roanoke
Thomas J. Lawson, Roanoke
S.D. Roberts Moore, Roanoke
Morris & Morris, Richmond
G. Marshall Mundy, Roanoke
Joseph M. Spivey III, Richmond
Jessa H. Stibring, Falls Church
John L. Walker Jr., Roanoke
Samuel G. Wilson, Roanoke

Wisconsin

Irvin B. Charn, Milwaukee
Henry A. Field Jr., Madison
Laurence C. Hammond Jr., Milwaukee
Dor R. Herrling, Appleton
Warren K. Haltz, Milwaukee
A. H. Laun Jr., Milwaukee
David L. MacGregor, Milwaukee
Joseph A. McMill, Madison
Richard R. Robinson, Milwaukee

Erratum

Phil C. Neil was misidentified as Charles B. Reinfrow on page 9. This is the last issue of the Quarterly. Mr. Neal, of Neal, Gerber, Eisenberg & Lucier in Chicago, is the gentleman who was photographed with Mrs. Rehnquist at the Society's Fourteenth Annual Dinner.
Annual Meeting (continued from page one)

Wythe's place in history does not depend upon his military leadership and prominence. He chaired the Committee of the Constitution, and was one of the leaders of that historic convention."

After thanking Justice Powell, Justin Stanley announced the recent success of the Society's membership campaign. As he said, "the lagging membership of the Society is no longer lagging, and is almost up to 3,500." Under the direction of National Membership Chairman Frank C. Jones, a network of state chairpersons had been assembled to recruit new members. Twenty-three of the chairpersons met their annual goals by May 14, and several were presented with marble awards by Justice Powell in the Court Chamber. These seven were: Fulton Haight, of California; James D. Miller, who, with Daniel Gibbons, worked in Washington, D.C.; Robert Waterman, of Iowa; Thomas Doxey, of Missouri; Richard Krudzen, of Nebraska; Johnnie Walters, of South Carolina; and John Walker, of Virginia. Mr. Stanley made special mention of Charles Renfrew, of California, who recruited over one-hundred and forty new members, but was unable to attend the ceremony.

President Stanley then spoke of the endowment campaign, which had been undertaken one year earlier to provide financial stability to the Society. Nine individual, corporate or foundation donors of twenty-five thousand dollars or more to the endowment were presented with awards by Justice Powell. Those honored were: Charlton Dietz, of the Minnesota, Mining and Manufacturing Foundation; Jim Ellis, of Southerwestern Bell Foundation; S. Howard Goldman; George C. Freuman, of Hunton & Williams; John Kester, of Williams and Connelly; Jeremiah Marsh; Gordon Pohrson, of Sutherland, Asbill and Brennan; E. Barrett Prettyman, Jr., of Hogan & Hartson; and Warren Wood, of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

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While Justice Powell spoke with many members of the capacity crowd, other guests began to assemble for the tour of the headquarters building and meet with Society staff over coffee and light desserts.

In conclusion, Justice Powell expressed his hope that the brief vignettes of the life of George Wythe "make clear why he became our country's first formal professor of law." After thanking Justice Powell, Justin Stanley announced the recent success of the Society's membership campaign. As he said, "the lagging membership of the Society is no longer lagging, and is almost up to 3,500." Under the direction of National Membership Chairman Frank C. Jones, a network of state chairpersons had been assembled to recruit new members. Twenty-three of the chairpersons met their annual goals by May 14, and several were presented with marble awards by Justice Powell in the Court Chamber. These seven were: Fulton Haight, of California; James D. Miller, who, with Daniel Gibbons, worked in Washington, D.C.; Robert Waterman, of Iowa; Thomas Doxey, of Missouri; Richard Krudzen, of Nebraska; Johnnie Walters, of South Carolina; and John Walker, of Virginia. Mr. Stanley made special mention of Charles Renfrew, of California, who recruited over one-hundred and forty new members, but was unable to attend the ceremony.

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The Supreme Court 1790-1990, an exhibit currently on display in the Supreme Court building (see related article on page six) includes some interesting artifacts and anecdotes relating to the history of the Supreme Court Bar.

Approximately 185,000 attorneys have been admitted to the Supreme Court Bar, many of whom have argued before the Court. The first member of the Supreme Court Bar was Elias Boudinot of New Jersey who was admitted on February 5, 1790. Seventy-five years later, on February 1, 1865, Dr. John S. Rock became the first black member of the Supreme Court Bar. The first woman to join the Bar was Belva A. Lockwood on March 3, 1879. Many famous attorneys have argued before the Supreme Court, including Presidents Abraham Lincoln, William H. Taft, and Richard M. Nixon.

Before modern transportation made it easier for attorneys to travel, persons with a case before the Court often retained counsel from the Washington D.C. area. Thus a small number of attorneys—such as Daniel Webster, Henry Clay, and John C. Calhoun—argued most of the cases, and their oratorical skills drew crowds to the courtroom, making oral argument a Washington social occasion. In the 20th century, Supreme Court cases have been divided among more attorneys. Where Daniel Webster argued 170 cases, today an attorney who appears before the Court a half dozen times is considered a seasoned veteran.

Now, only the Solicitor General and his staff, who argue cases for the United States, and a few attorneys in private practice appear before the Court regularly. Along with transportation improvements, the 1970 amendment to the Supreme Court rules permitting Bar admission through mail (as an alternative to oral motion in open Court) has caused the Bar's ranks to swell. About 5,000 attorneys are now admitted each year.

Elias Boudinot of New Jersey was the first attorney admitted to the Supreme Court Bar. Requirements for admission in 1790 remain the same today: an attorney must have an acceptable personal and professional character and be qualified to practice before the highest Court of a state or territory.