

NEWS FROM:

# C-SPAN AMERICA'S NETWORK

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PROGRAM PACKAGE: "America & the Courts: a look at  
the Federal Judiciary"

AIR DATES: December 30, 31, Jan. 1, 2, 3, and 4

START TIME: 1:00 pm est daily

CO-PRODUCERS: Carrie Collins and Connie Doebele

## C-SPAN VENTURES INTO JUDICIAL SYSTEM

### Week-long Program Package To Focus on the Federal Courts

WASHINGTON, D.C.-- The C-SPAN cable network -- best known for its live coverage of the U.S. Congress -- ventures into the judicial branch of government for the first time this month, with a special programming package called "America and the Courts."

This week-long special focus, which begins December 30, is an unprecedented 20-hour look at the Federal Judiciary. It is designed to introduce the public to some of the "who's and what's" of the Federal courts through interviews, roundtable discussions, and viewer call-in programs.

"The Administration is very visible and the Congress has been televised for nearly seven years," says series co-producer Connie Doebele. "The little-televised judicial branch of government remains a mystery to most people. This package is our attempt to demystify the federal judiciary by introducing viewers to key players."

The six-part series begins at 1:00 pm est each day, December 30 to January 4, with each segment devoted to a different perspective on the federal courts: the White House, history, Congress, lawyers, and judges. Viewers will hear from famous names like South Carolina Senator Strom Thurmond, Congressman Peter Rodino, and former Attorney General Griffin Bell. In addition, there are segments with people rarely seen on camera, such as Chief Justice Warren Burger, Supreme Court Justice William Brennan, and US Appeals Court Judges Abner Mikva and Kenneth Starr. C-SPAN viewers will even be taken inside a law school classroom for a lesson on tort law.

C-SPAN programming can be seen in 23 million U.S. cable homes. In order to make this special package available to C-SPAN subscribers in Alaska and Hawaii, each day's segment will be repeated in the network's "overnight" program schedule.

The schedule for C-SPAN's "America and the Courts" is:

Monday, December 30--"The White House and the Courts"

(reair begins 12/31--2:00 am est)

1:00 pm est	Debate: "Intention vs. Interpretation" sponsor: Center for Nat'l Policy Laurence Tribe, Harvard University vs. Michael McConnell, Univ. of Chicago
2:30 pm est	Interview: Assistant Attorney General William Bradford Reynolds
3:00 pm est	Interview: Former Attorney General Griffin Bell
3:20 pm est	Call-in: Washington attorney Don Santarelli (taped)

(more)

CABLE SATELLITE PUBLIC AFFAIRS NETWORK

(over, please)



"AMERICA AND THE COURTS"  
C-SPAN Special Focus

ADD ONE

December 31, 1985--"History and the Courts"

(reair begins 1/1 2:00 am est)

1:00 pm est Roundtable: 5 Journalists who cover the Supreme Court  
2:00 pm est Interview: Jim Ketchum, Curator, U.S. Senate  
2:45 pm est Interview: Linda McElroy, Director of Tours, U.S. Supreme Court  
3:15 pm est Call-in: Scott Armstrong, co author, The Brethern (taped)  
4:15 pm est Interview: Betty Wells, NBC Supreme Court artist  
5:15 pm est Call-in: Lyle Denniston, Baltimore Sun Supreme Court reporter (taped)  
5:45 pm est Interview: Alice O'Donnell, former law clerk (topic: women & the Court)

January 1, 1986--"Congress & the Courts"

(reair begins 1/2 at 4:00 am est)

1:00 pm est Call-in: Sen. Strom Thurmond, Chairman, Senate Judiciary Cmte. (taped)

1:30 pm est Interview: Rep. Peter Rodino, Chairman, House Judiciary Cmte. (taped)

2:20 pm est Call-in: Sen. Howell Heflin, former Alabama Supreme Court Chief Justice (taped)

2:50 pm est Call-in: American University Professor Herman Schwartz (taped) member, "Supreme Court Watch"

January 2, 1986--"Lawyers & the Courts"

(reair begins 1/3 at 2:00 am est)

1:00 pm est Law class: "tort law" George Washington University Law Center  
introduction by Robert Landis, American Bar Association

1:50 pm est Call-in: Erwin Griswold, former Solicitor General (taped)

2:20 pm est Call-in: Barrett Prettyman, Washington Attorney

2:50 pm est Law class: "Moot Court" law students prepare to argue cases before the  
bench

January 3, 1986--"Judges & the Courts"

(reair begins 1/4 at 2:00 am est)

1:00 pm est	National Press Club speech: Chief Justice Warren Burger
2:00 pm est	Hastings Law School speech: Supreme Court Associate Justice Wm. Brennan
2:45 pm est	Interview: U.S. Appeals Court Justices Abner Mikva & Kenneth Starr

January 4, 1986--"America & the Courts"

(reair begins 1/5 at 2:00 am est)

1:00 pm est            Call-in: Arthur Spitzer, American Civil Liberties Union  
Bruce Fein, American Enterprise Institute (taped)  
topic: Role of courts in our society

2:00 pm est            Call-in: Robert Stephan, President, National Association of  
Attorneys General  
topic: States involvement in the courts

## ## ##



WILLIAM BRADFORD REYNOLDS

CC: As one in charge of carrying out that directive (the President's), what does that (a <sup>st</sup>atement by Meese) mean to you?

BR: "...the Department of Justice's responsibilities are legal primarily (in) that we will make the decisions on the legal questions based on our independent assessment of the law in the context of what the overall philosophy is of this administration. That means that it will not be a politically motivated decision that drives whatever legal action is taken, but rather one lawyers make within the the context of the legal analysis that is applied. On the other hand, it will be a position that is certainly consistent with the overall philosophy of the administration in the various areas that are involved.

CC: How much pressure do you feel from outside interest groups?

BR: "...There is constant pressure from outside interest groups, certainly in the civil rights area, to fashion our positions or stances in court in a certain way....We really go about our business in terms of what we view as the requirements of the law, what the statute says and the history of the statute says we should do or the Constitution. And while those pressures are something that I think are recognized, they don't really have much of an influence in terms of how we fashion our positions and present them to the courts."

CC: How do you acheive your (administration) goals at the state legislative level?

BR: "...Really, it's the state and local authorities that do have considerable power over <sup>the</sup> events of people's lives. We (the Justice Dept.), therefore, are very sensitive to the efforts to try to inject the federal government into state and local authorities. We don't do that, directly, and we really are very much mindful of it and resist any efforts, indirectly, to try to have the federal government step in and interfere with state and local initiatives or those kinds of things that fall peculiarly with in the prerogatives of state and local governments."

\* \* \*

\* Reynolds also addresses S.C. decisions recent<sup>ly</sup> turned back (i.e. Wade v. Roe)



-- AMERICA AND THE COURTS --

SEN. STROM THURMOND

BG: Are Reagan's judicial appointments more ideologically motivated than past presidents'?

ST: "I think every president appoints judges who think more like he does, that's natural...President Reagan was elected so he's using his powers under the Constitution to appoint people to the courts (whom) he feels are qualified professionally -- character, integrity, and so forth."

BG: How does a judge get appointed?

ST: "...the President makes the (federal judicial) appointment. Under the Constitution, he is responsible for appointing judges. The Senators are responsible for acting on those appointments, the confirmation process as we call it. Now, under our system, the judges are referred to the judiciary committee. The Constitution doesn't refer to committees, but anyway that's our process -- and we study the nomination and then make a recommendation to the Senate."

\* \* \*

\* The Thurmond call-in was only 30 minutes and less than half the calls addressed his knowledge of the judiciary.



SEN. HOWELL HEFLIN

CC: Is our judicial system open to public scrutiny as much as it could be?

HH: "...the main idea is that you've got a conflict between a fair trial and freedom of the press. I think both can be accomodated in a manner where the public will have a better knowledge of what goes on in the courts. Nevertheless, it will not interfere with the free trial."

CC: Do you think we'll actually see it ~~(open judicial process)~~ <sup>(- cameras in the courtroom)</sup> on a more regular basis or on the federal level?

HH: "I doubt if you're going to see it on the federal level anytime in the near future. There's several leaders of the federal judiciary who are really vigorously opposed to it (cameras in the courtroom). Of course, we've got the problem in the United States Senate today -- the House is open to television, but the Senate is not yet...I think in the not too distant future the Senate will be open to television."

CC: Do you support that (Senate TV)?

HH: Oh yes. I think it's a step forward and think the public will know better what goes on and I think when they find out the mechanics of how the courts operate, the way the Senate operates, you (the public) will have a better understanding of the process and have a better understanding of the substantive issues that come before each (body).

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JUDICIARY WEEK

MIKVA: "There is a little bit of pomp and circumstance ~~about~~ the role of the judiciary that takes a while getting used to... ~~the~~ black robe, the high bench, the people standing, the 'your honor', but after you realize it clearly doesn't have to do with your person, it has to do with a respect for the institution, you begin to realize that the world was going on and the judiciary was going on long before I Got here."

STARR: On judicial attributes: "So much of our work goes ~~on~~ behind the scenes. It is the unusual day when we are actually in court. Unusual in the sense that perhaps 4 or 5 days out of the month we are actually behind the bench...So while there is a good deal of pomp and circumstance, a lot of our day to day work goes on in the quiet chambers or just as would be the case in a law office.....(Integrity)...."Our job is to decide cases and it is critical and it is imperative that those cases be decided honestly. They may not be decided correctly in the views of the parties before the court or in the eyes of society, if it is an important case, but integrity in the process is terribly important.....fidelity to the law itself [is also important].

MIKVA: "Self Discipline... the capacity to restrain yourself when you're looking at a case....[and say] I'm going to decide it on the facts before me and I'm not going to decide anymore than needs to be decided in this case."

STARR: Appellate judge must have "the capacity for an enormous amount of work.....life as an appellate judge is not a leisurely life. It is filled with very long days and work on weekends."

MIKVA: CARTER APPOINTEE

STARR: REAGAN APPOINTEE



JUDICIARY WEEK

S.C. REPORTERS ROUNDTABLE

O'BRIEN: "I saw law school then and I see it now as really the last of the 'no lose' propositions. If you want to stay in journalism, it has got to help you and if you want to get out it's got to help you

TAYLOR: Covering the S.C.: The issues and the ways the decisionmakers talk about them are a little bit more obtuse and technical....the court talks sometimes in legal jargon...Our main obligation is to try and explain without putting any particular editorial spin on what's really going on.... explain the background and the significance of S.C. decisions....

HOUSE JUDICIARY CMTE

RODINO:

Relations between Congress and the federal courts....

"We are continually, of course, at odds with each other, but trying to work in a coordinated manner despite the fact that we are separate. Congress, in effect, tries to, through legislation, relate to the people, represent the people's interest goals aims and needs as is represented by the Constitution... concerned about protection of 'our domain' -- Congressional domain and the interests therein.... "I realize the importance of separation of powers" to avoid interference, meddling..."

Nixon Impeachment hearings...House judiciary cmte room.....

COURT ARTIST

"I don't think any medium (cameras or print or sketches) is the perfect one"

Betty  
Weels

(for S.C. coverage)