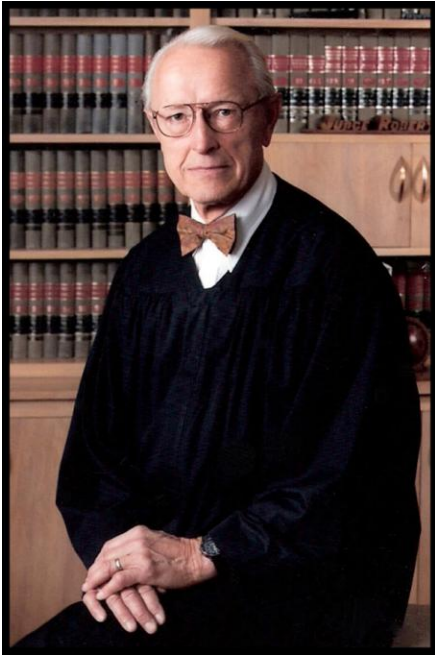


# Judge Robert Jenkins



Robert was born June 16, 1922 in Stevens Point, the son of Lyel Newton Jenkins and Helen Curtis Jenkins. He attended St. Stephen School and P.J. Jacobs High School, graduating in 1940. He then attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he majored in accounting and was a member of the varsity crew and Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity. His college education was interrupted by enlisting in the Army during World War II. His service took him to Germany as an aviation photographer during the last year of the war. It was during his training at Lowry Field, Denver, that he married his high school sweetheart, Betty June Frost, on June 22, 1943. Upon leaving the Army in 1945, he returned to the university to complete a BA in accounting, followed by completion of law school in 1948. He and his family returned to Stevens Point in 1948 where Robert entered law practice with his father.

Robert was a highly respected attorney who was very active in his profession. He was a Justice of the Peace, served 3 terms as district attorney, and was a member and past president of the Portage County Bar Association. He also served on the economics committee of the state bar association. He was chairman of the county Republican Party for many years. On the recommendation of the county bar association, he was appointed County Judge by Governor Knowles in 1969. He served as County, and later Circuit, Judge until his retirement in 1988, having never been opposed in his reelections. He continued to serve as reserve judge until 2000.

Robert's civic involvement in the community was extensive. He served 2 terms as a city alderman and was a member of the Town of Hull Board. He was a member and past president of Kiwanis Club, Izaak Walton League, Portage County Taxpayers Association, Jaycees, and Serra Club. He was chairman of the UW Alumni Association and of the first parish council at St. Peter Catholic Church. He was a member of the St. Michael's Hospital Board, Portage County Red Cross, American Legion Post 6, and Chamber of Commerce Board. Of particular importance were his roles in organizing and chairing the first United Way fund drive and in serving on the committee that developed plans for the current County-City Building. He was also active as a Boy Scout leader and was proud of the fact that his son and grandson both earned Eagle Scout.

Robert was recognized for his active role in the community by being honored as the Jaycee's Distinguished Citizen in 1959. In 1992 he was recognized by the Annual Lectures on Poland Heritage Club for a quarter century of promoting Polish history and culture.

This scholarship which bears his name is intended for students who aspire to a career in law, music, or conservation. These three areas embody the passions that consumed Judge Jenkins' life. As a lawyer and judge, he was known throughout the community for always being fair and impartial in his dealings with others. As a lover of music, he was well-versed in a wide range of music, from swing to opera. He and his wife, Betty, loved to dance with the Whiting Dance Club and were season ticket holders to the Central Wisconsin Symphony and the Florentine Opera Company of Milwaukee, and often made trips to Chicago to attend the opera and symphony. He learned to play piano by ear and was often the entertainment at parties whenever a piano was nearby. He was a strong believer in conserving our outdoor heritage through his involvement with the Izaak Walton League and as a fly fisherman and hunter. He maintained a one acre garden and orchard of forty fruit trees on his property along the Wisconsin River; excess fruit and vegetables would be donated to local food pantries.

Robert was a fit man who ran marathons and rode a bike daily to the courthouse. He was a man of honesty, a true judge of character who had great respect for others and who was fair and firm in his dealings in the courtroom. He left an indelible imprint on everyone who knew him, never to be erased. Applicants for this scholarship should be inspired by Judge Jenkins' lifetime of accomplishments so that they may continue the tradition of excellence in the fields of law, music, or conservation.