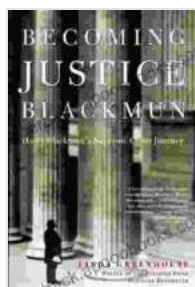


Harry Blackmun: A Supreme Court Journey



Becoming Justice Blackmun: Harry Blackmun's Supreme Court Journey by Linda Greenhouse

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 3244 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting: Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 288 pages



Early Life and Education

Harry Andrew Blackmun was born on November 12, 1908, in Nashville, Illinois. His father was a hardware store owner, and his mother was a schoolteacher. Blackmun excelled academically from a young age, graduating as valedictorian of his high school class. He went on to attend Harvard University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in 1932 and a law degree in 1935.

Legal Career and Appointment to the Supreme Court

After graduating from law school, Blackmun returned to his hometown of Rochester, Minnesota, where he practiced law for over two decades. He gained a reputation as a skilled appellate lawyer, arguing numerous cases before the Minnesota Supreme Court. In 1959, President Dwight D. Eisenhower appointed Blackmun to the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit.

Blackmun's tenure on the Eighth Circuit bench further solidified his reputation as a thoughtful and fair-minded jurist. He wrote numerous influential opinions, including one that held that the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure applied to state courts. In 1970, President Richard Nixon nominated Blackmun to the Supreme Court to fill the vacancy created by

the retirement of Justice Abe Fortas. Blackmun was confirmed by the Senate by a vote of 94 to 0.

Service on the Supreme Court

Justice Blackmun served on the Supreme Court for over two decades, from 1970 to 1994. During this time, he authored over 1,000 opinions, including many landmark rulings. Blackmun's opinions often reflected his commitment to individual rights and the protection of the disadvantaged.

Roe v. Wade and Miranda v. Arizona

One of Blackmun's most famous opinions is his majority opinion in *Roe v. Wade* (1973), which legalized abortion nationwide. This landmark decision sparked a national debate that continues to this day. Blackmun also wrote the majority opinion in *Miranda v. Arizona* (1966), which held that criminal suspects must be informed of their rights before being questioned. This ruling has had a profound impact on the criminal justice system and has become widely known as the "Miranda warning."

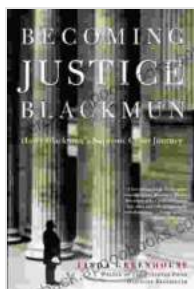
American Indian Rights and Affirmative Action

Blackmun was also a strong advocate for American Indian rights. He wrote the majority opinion in *Lyng v. Northwest Indian Cemetery Protective Association* (1988), which recognized the religious freedom of American Indians to use sacred lands for traditional ceremonies. Blackmun also wrote the opinion in *Regents of the University of California v. Bakke* (1978), which upheld the use of affirmative action in university admissions.

Legacy and Retirement

Harry Blackmun retired from the Supreme Court in 1994. He passed away in 1999 at the age of 90. Blackmun left behind a legacy as a thoughtful and fair-minded jurist who made significant contributions to American jurisprudence. His opinions helped shape the course of justice in the United States and continue to be cited as authority in courts across the country.

Harry Blackmun was a pivotal figure in American jurisprudence, whose work had a profound impact on the nation's legal landscape. Through his influential opinions, he championed individual rights, protected the disadvantaged, and advanced the cause of justice. Blackmun's legacy as a Supreme Court Justice continues to inspire generations of lawyers and jurists, and his



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