

NEWS FOR MEMBERS OF THE U.S. DISTRICT COURT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

GIFTS TO THE SOCIETY FROM JUDGE PHILLIPS

Upon his retirement from active service on July 31, **U.S. District Judge Thomas W. Phillips** gave the Court Historical Society several items. Among them are documents relating to his appearance before the Senate Judiciary Committee in 2002, prior to his confirmation as an Article III judge.

Included is a letter from then-**Assistant Attorney General Viet D. Dinh**, in which he listed the materials being sent. The main item is a two-inch-thick book titled "Confirmation Hearing Preparation." There are 15 sections, two of which contain questions asked of previous nominees appearing before the Committee during the administration of **President George W. Bush**, both at the hearing and in follow-up written questions; sample questions posed to nominees during previous administrations; and full and partial transcripts of hearings held during the **Bush, Clinton**, and **Reagan** administrations. And there are summaries of "important Supreme Court decisions from the term ending June 2001."

Assistant Attorney General Dinh said in his letter, "As you review these materials, please keep in mind that they are offered not as models but as examples of the hearing process."

Other documents in the collection of papers donated by Judge Phillips include the notes he used in his orientation of new jurors, several of his speeches to a number of organizations and students, and a collection of talks he made to attorneys during attorney admission ceremonies.

The Society is grateful to Judge Phillips for donating these documents. They have been placed in safekeeping in the Court Historical Society archives. Judge Phillips has been a member--and strong supporter--of the Society since its inception in 1993.

Judge Phillips was appointed to the Article III judgeship by **President George W. Bush** in 2002. He served as a magistrate judge from 1991 to 2002. Judge Phillips is the only judge in the Eastern District of Tennessee ever to serve as both a magistrate judge and an Article III judge.

[EDITOR--The Society has received other donated historical materials along the way, and we will tell about some of these in future issues.]

FOR THE ARCHIVES--Former University of Tennessee Law **Professor Zygmunt Plater**, right, discusses his book, *The Snail Darter & the Dam -- How Pork-Barrel Politics Endangered a Little Fish and Killed a River*, with **Don K. Ferguson**, executive director of the Court Historical Society, at a book-signing on September 12 at Union Avenue Books in downtown Knoxville. Plater is now a law professor at Boston College. Ferguson purchased a copy for the Society's archives. The famous snail darter trial was conducted in the Knoxville federal court in the 1970s by **U.S. District Judge Robert L. Taylor**. Professor Plater, who was one of the attorneys in the long court fight, is pointing to a reproduction of a drawing that hangs on the wall of the History Suite in the Howard H. Baker Jr. U.S. Courthouse. The drawing, which shows Judge Taylor on the bench and a witness on the stand, was done for television use during the trial and was obtained some time ago by the Society. The book, published by Yale University Press, costs \$32.50.

JUSTICE IN THE VALLEY--Speaking of books, the Court Historical Society is making a special offer as gift-giving season nears--temporarily selling the Society's book, *Justice in the Valley*, by **Dr. Patricia Brake**, at a reduced price, \$18, plus \$4 postage. Please see contact information below. The book normally sells for \$25. It covers many of the notable cases and people that helped shape this court--from 1797, when the court was established, through 1998, the year the book was published by the Society. It is a hard-cover book, fully indexed to help readers find what they are looking for in the 244 pages of text. It is truly a great reference book for information pertaining to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee.

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