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BIOGRAPHY

In the pages that follow, the *Mississippi College Law Review* honors Chief Judge Charles Clark upon his retirement from the bench as Chief Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. In addition to highlighting Judge Clark's professional accomplishments, we have provided a forum for those who know him on both a personal and professional basis to share with the legal community their personal experiences with and thoughts about Chief Judge Clark. This project has allowed the Staff of the *Mississippi College Law Review* to study Judge Clark's career extensively. The more we have learned, the more we recognize the appropriateness of this tribute to Chief Judge Clark's accomplishments and dedication to the legal profession. A brief biography of Judge Clark's traverse from bar-to-bench-to-bar serves as a functional outline for the remainder of this issue.

Judge Clark was educated at Delta State Teachers College (1943), Millsaps College (1943-44), and Tulane University (1944-45) before receiving his LL.B. from the University of Mississippi in 1948. Judge Clark was admitted to the Mississippi State Bar in 1948 and joined the firm of Wells, Thomas & Wells in Jackson, Mississippi, where he remained until he began practice with the firm of Cox, Dunn & Clark in 1961. Judge Clark also served as Special Assistant to the Attorney General of Mississippi from 1961 to 1966.

On October 17, 1969, Judge Clark was appointed by President Richard Nixon to the bench of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit and was sworn in on November 11, 1969. In 1981, when the Fifth Circuit was divided into the Fifth and Eleventh Circuits, Judge Clark became the Chief Judge of the "New Fifth."

Membership in the Judicial Conference of the United States was concomitant with the Chief Judgeship. Judge Clark served in the Judicial Conference for over ten years, and was appointed to the Executive Committee in 1984. He served as Chairman of the Conference Budget Committee from 1981 to 1987. Judge Clark also served on the Appellate Rules Committee and was appointed by Chief Justice Rhenquist to serve on the Ad Hoc Committee on Habeas Corpus chaired by Justice Powell.

Chief Judge Clark became Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Judicial Conference in 1989 and retained that position until 1991, when he announced his retirement from the bench and intention to return to private practice with the law firm of Watkins & Eager in Jackson, Mississippi.

Judge Clark was born in Memphis, Tennessee, on September 12, 1925, to Charles and Anita (Massengill) Clark. He was married to Emily Russell on August 26, 1947, and they have six children: Charles Jr.; John F.; James R.; Catherine; and Peter R.

Judge and Mrs. Clark presently reside in Jackson, Mississippi, where Judge Clark has resumed the private practice of law.

