



## Quotes

### What the law means

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**“We must never forget that the only real source of power that we as judges can tap is the respect of the people.”**

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**“If citizens have respect for the work of the courts, their respect for law will survive the shortcomings of every other branch of government; but if they lose their respect for the work of the courts, their respect for law and order will vanish with it.”**

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**“It is the business of judges to be indifferent to popularity.”**

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**“They (judges) must strive to do what is legally right, all the more so when the result is not the one the “home crowd” wants.”**

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**“We cannot ask a man what he will do on the Court, and if we should, and he should answer us, we should despise him for it.”**

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**“The greatest scourge an angry Heaven ever inflicted upon an ungrateful and a sinning people was an ignorant, a corrupt, or a dependent judiciary.”**

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**“The very purpose of a Bill of Rights was to withdraw certain subjects from the vicissitudes [changing nature] of political controversy, to place them beyond the reach of majorities and officials, and to establish them as legal principles to be applied by the courts. One’s right to life, liberty, and property, to free speech, a free press, freedom of worship and assembly, and other fundamental rights may not be submitted to vote; they depend on the outcome of no elections.”**

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**"Judges . . . rule on the basis of law, not public opinion, and they should be totally indifferent to pressures of the times."**

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**"Deference to the judgment and rulings of courts depends upon public confidence in the integrity and independence of judges. The integrity and independence of judges depends in turn depends upon their acting without fear or favor."**

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**This is a government of laws, not of men . . . It is not without significance that most of the provisions of the Bill of Rights are procedural. It is procedure that spells much of the difference between rule by law and rule by whim or caprice.**

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**It is confidence in the men and women who administer the judicial system that is the true backbone of the rule of law. Time will one day heal the wound to the confidence that will be inflicted by today's decision. One thing, however, is certain. Although we may never know with complete certainty the identity of the winner of this year's Presidential election, the identity of the loser is perfectly clear. It is the Nation's confidence in the judge as an impartial guardian of the rule of law. I respectfully dissent."**

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**"It is emphatically the province and duty of the judicial branch to say what the law means."**