

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Judge Douglas Ginsburg

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Education is Key - Civics Education Oral History project

Interview # ECE-A-L-2020-021

Ginsburg, Judge Douglas, the former Chief Justice of the D.C. Court of Appeals discusses his involvement with the PBS documentary “A More or Less Perfect Union,” was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library’s *Education is Key – Civic Education* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Feb. 28, 2020

Location: phone interview held at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, Springfield, Il

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Phil Pogue, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:01 / 1.02 hrs.

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on June 2, 2021.

The interview is archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois.

© 2020 Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Abstract

Douglas Ginsburg, *Education is Key - Civics*, ECE-A-L-2020-021

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Douglas Ginsburg was born in Chicago, Illinois in May 1946. He attended Chicago Latin for high school graduating in 1965 and earned a BS degree from Cornell University in English and then a law degree from the University of Chicago in 1973. He went on to clerk for Judge Carl McGowan and Judge Thurgood Marshall. His work experiences included a Professorship at Harvard Law School and service in the Reagan Administration for the Office of Regulatory Affairs, the Office of Management and Budget, and as an Assistant Attorney General. He has been an adjunct professor at George Mason School of Law and a visiting professor at Columbia, the University of Chicago, New York law schools, and the University of London Faculty of Law. In 1986, Douglas was nominated by President Ronald Reagan for the D.C. Court of Appeals and was approved by the U.S. Senate. Judge Ginsburg served as the Chief Judge of the D.C. Appellate Court from 2001-2008. At the time of the interview he was a Senior Judge of that Court. Judge Ginsburg has been involved with the production of a three part series for Public Broadcasting Corporation called “A More or Less Perfect Union.” This series is designed for use by middle and high school social studies teachers. The series covers the development of the U.S. Constitution following the failure of the Articles of Confederation, a review of the Bill of Rights and the 13th through 15th amendments which were adopted following the Civil War. It also reviews the challenges facing the Constitution throughout our history.

In this interview, Judge Ginsburg discusses the three part series on the U.S. Constitution which is designed for middle and high school teachers and students. It seeks to promote civics education by understanding the importance of the country’s foundational document. The series covers the history behind replacing the Articles of Confederation with the U.S. Constitution and its 10 articles. The series looks in depth at the Bill of Rights (amendments 1-10) and the post-Civil War amendments (13th -15th Amendments). The third part of the series examines other amendments and the challenges the Constitution has faced during American history. Judge Ginsburg discusses the ways judges interpret the Constitution using either an originalist or a living document philosophy.

Subject Headings/Key Words: PBS documentary “A More or Less Perfect Union; organization of the DC Court of Appeals; transition from the Articles of Confederation to the U.S. Constitution; Bill of Rights; post-Civil War amendments, 13th – 15th; civics material for grades 7 through 12; landmark U.S. Supreme Court cases; historical figures involved with drafting the U.S. Constitution;

Notes to the Reader: Readers of the oral history memoir should bear in mind that this is a transcript of the spoken word, and that the interviewer, interviewee and editor sought to preserve the informal, conversational style that is inherent in such historical sources. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library is not responsible for the factual accuracy of the memoir, nor for the views expressed therein. We leave these for the reader to judge.

COPYRIGHT

The following material can be used for educational and other non-commercial purposes without the written permission of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library. “Fair use” criteria of Section 107 of the Copyright Act of 1976 must be followed. These materials are not to be deposited in other repositories, nor used for resale or commercial purposes without the authorization from the Audio-Visual Curator at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, 112 N. 6th Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701. Telephone (217) 785-7955