

The University of Georgia School of Law

THE HONORABLE JAMES R. BROWNING

Chief Judge U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

The Honorable James R. Browning is Chief Judge of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, the largest unit of the federal judicial system.

Judge Browning was appointed a judge of the Court of Appeals by President John F. Kennedy in 1961. He became Chief Judge in 1976. The Ninth Circuit encompasses the federal courts in eight western continental states as well as the state of Hawaii and the territories of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands.

Judge Browning has had a long and varied career as a private attorney, an official in the U.S. Department of Justice, a law school teacher and a judge and judicial administrator. An antitrust attorney, he rose through the ranks of the Justice Department to become the executive assistant to the U.S. attorney general. In 1958 Chief Justice Earl Warren selected Browning to serve as Clerk of the U.S. Supreme Court, an administrative post he held for three years.

When selected by the Chief Justice, Browning was a partner in a Washington, D.C. law firm formed by Philip Perlman, then U.S. Solicitor General. During this period Browning also taught federal antitrust law at Georgetown University Law Center and at New York University.

He has served for ten years on the U.S. Judicial Conference, the national policy-making body of the federal judicial system. A member of the executive committee, he was recently named by Chief Justice William Rehnquist to his committee of seven to study the organization and procedures of the Judicial Conference and to recommend needed changes.

Judge Browning headed the U.S. delegation to the South Pacific Judicial Conference in Auckland, New Zealand in Marc, and he is a U.S. delegate to the Fourth International Conference of Appellate Judges held this April in Malaysia.

A native of Belt, Montana, Judge Browning holds a law degree from the University of Montana.