

# THE REPORTER

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Valparaiso University School of Law Library

## FIRST MONDAY October 3, 2005

Celebrating the beginning of a  
new term of the United States  
Supreme Court

A term of the Supreme Court begins, by statute, on the first Monday in October. With the confirmation of John Roberts as chief justice of the United States on September 29, the nine members of the court are beginning the 2005-2006 term with the first new member in a decade. The court in 2004, with William Rehnquist as chief justice, had been the longest sitting court since the 1820s.

First Monday ceremonies have solemnly opened a new session each year since 1917. At this time, with appropriate pomp and ceremony, the new justices take their oaths, retirees are honored, and attorneys are admitted to the Bar of the Supreme Court of the United States. Also on this day, the order list regarding certiorari petitions is released. Hundreds of cases are sent to the Supreme Court each year seeking a "writ of certiorari" (decision by the court to hear an appeal from a lower court). Fewer than one percent of these cases are accepted for review.

The court begins this term with 48 cases on its docket. The justices will hear cases on issues including free speech, campaign finance, religious



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freedom, and reproductive rights. The court typically remains in session until late June.

Available on the Supreme Court's website ([www.supremecourtus.gov](http://www.supremecourtus.gov)) is a complete schedule of oral arguments, as well as a variety of other information produced by and about the court. For those interested in further background information, the Valpo Law Library collection contains a number of books by and about U.S. Supreme Court justices. These can be found by consulting Galileo.

In recent years, Valpo Law School has hosted a total of five Supreme Court justices here on campus and at the Summer Abroad program in Cambridge, England. Our visiting justices were Chief Justice William Rehnquist and Justices Sandra Day O'Connor, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Antonin Scalia, and Clarence Thomas.

## *To get in the spirit of First Monday,*

*try to match each short bio below with one of these Supreme Court justices:*

Warren E. Burger  
James F. Byrnes  
Samuel Chase  
Felix Frankfurter

John Marshall Harlan  
Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.  
Thurgood Marshall  
Antonin Scalia

Thomas Todd  
Byron R. White

1. This associate justice, poet, novelist, and essayist once referred to the Sherman Antitrust Act as an “imbecile statute” designed to make everyone fight while forbidding anyone to be victorious.
2. This Harvard graduate and teacher is a strict Constitutionalist and an opponent of the use of legislative history arguments.
3. This associate justice of the High Court from 1807 to 1826 began practicing law with only three shillings in his pocket.
4. He signed the Declaration of Independence and served in Congress during the Revolutionary War; he was impeached by the House of Representatives but acquitted by the Senate.
5. This great-grandson of a slave became the first African American to take a seat on the High Court.
6. He was an associate justice of the High Court from 1877 to 1911; his grandson, who was named for him, also served as an associate justice (1955–1971).
7. He served as an associate justice on the High Court from 1939 to 1962.
8. He was John F. Kennedy’s first appointment to the court.
9. In 1941, Roosevelt nominated him to fill the seat of Harlan Fiske Stone, who had been appointed chief justice.
10. A former chief justice of the High Court, his most significant opinions dealt with the separation of powers.

## *Answers:*

1. Holmes; 2. Scalia; 3. Todd; 4. Chase; 5. Marshall; 6. Harlan;  
7. Frankfurter; 8. White; 9. Byrnes; 10. Burger.