

Dissents from the Bench: A Compilation of Oral Dissents Issued by the U.S. Supreme Court Justices

Jill Duffy, Research Librarian, Supreme Court of the United States Library
Elizabeth Lambert, Staff Attorney, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York

In recent years, the Supreme Court has received increased attention for the use of “oral dissents,” or dissenting statements read aloud in open Court. Oral dissents are relatively rare and they are an added gesture Justices make when they wish to indicate that, in their view, the majority opinion is fundamentally wrong. While print dissents are common and published routinely, oral dissents are neither transcribed nor systematically tracked. This project seeks to compile as complete a list as possible of Supreme Court cases from the Burger, Rehnquist, and Roberts Courts (October Term 1969 – present) in which an oral dissent was issued. Whenever possible, the text of the statement will be collected as well. The project will be of benefit to the Court and its history, as well as to those who study the Court and its work.

An Index to Judges’ Inductions, Memorials, Etc. in the Official State Reports

Joel Fishman, Ph.D.

Assistant Director for Lawyer Services, Duquesne University Center for Legal Information/Allegheny County Law Library

This project aims to collect all inductions, memorials, presentation of portraits, resolutions, etc. of state-court judges found in the official state reports of all fifty states. With many libraries discarding their bound volumes, and only cases being reprinted in Lexis and Westlaw, this index will provide an important source for biographical information of the state judiciary. In the 1920s and 1930s law librarians collected this data and published lists in the *Law Library Journal* and a later article contains similar resources for the federal court judges. Although there are some comprehensive lists for single states, there is no comprehensive listing of all states. This index will cover all official reports since their inception to current volumes providing the name of the judge, the type of celebration, and citation in the official reports. The index will be by state and possibly alphabetical by person to be published as an article in the *Law Library Journal* or possibly a book depending on its final size.