

Chief Justice John C. Bell, Jr.
1892-1974



Term

March 24, 1950-January 3, 1972; Chief Justice August 1, 1961 to January 3, 1972

Education

- University of Pennsylvania, A.B., 1914
- University of Pennsylvania Law School, LL.B., 1917

Professional Experience

- Admitted to the Philadelphia bar, 1917
- Assistant City Solicitor, Philadelphia, 1919-22
- Assistant District Attorney, Philadelphia, 1922-25
- State Secretary of Banking, 1939-43
- Lieutenant-Governor of Pennsylvania, President of Senate and Chairman of State Board of Pardons, 1943-47
- Governor of Pennsylvania, January 2, 1947 to January 21, 1947 (Gov. Edward Martin resigned to become U.S. Senator and Lieutenant Governor succeeded until new Governor James Duff took office on January 21)
- Governor James Duff nominated Bell, Justice, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, commissioned on March 18, 1950; swearing-in ceremony, March 24, 1950

Honors and Awards

- Honorary LL.D. degrees: Villanova University (1958), University of Pennsylvania (1960)
- Class President, University of Pennsylvania Law School
- Captain, Episcopal Academy Tennis Team and Shinnongosh Team
- University of Pennsylvania Soccer team, 1911-14; Captain, 1913 and 1914; All American, 1914
- University of Pennsylvania tennis team, 1913-14; ranked in the first ten in American Lawn Tennis Doubles, 1920; finalist in the United States Court Tennis Doubles Championship, 1926, 1929, 1931, 1932, and 1934
- Captain, Racquet Club Tennis Team, 1929-34
- Magna Charta Award 1962
- Episcopal Academy Distinguished Alumnus Award, 1970
- Gold Good Citizenship medal, Sons of the American Revolution, 1970

Memberships and Associations

- Delta Psi Fraternity
- Member and former President of Racquet Club
- Philadelphia Club
- Gulph Mills Golf Club
- Colonial Society of Pennsylvania
- Member and former President, Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution
- Past Commander, Crusaders of Pennsylvania
- Member of the American, Pennsylvania, and Philadelphia Bar Associations
- All Saints Church, Wynneood
- Lifetime Member, St. Anthony Hall

Publications

- No title. 69 Reports of the Pennsylvania Bar Association 11 (1965).

Sources

100 Pa. Manual 478 (1970-71); Induction Ceremony, 497 Pa. xlvii, Memorial Ceremony, 532 Pa. cxlvii; 109 no. 31 Pittsburgh L.J. (August 5, 1961); John W. Lord, Jr. The Honorable John C. Bell, Jr., 6 no. 1 The

Shingle 4 (Jan. 1943); Thomas Hart, The Honorable John C. Bell, Jr., 24 The Shingle 175 (1961); Lewis H. Van Dusen, Jr., John C. Bell, Jr.—The Retiring Chief Justice, 34 The Shingle 179 (1971); John C. Bell, Jr., Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_C._Bell_Jr.; Governor John Cromwell Bell Jr., Pennsylvania Governors, Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, <http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/portal/communities/governors/1876-1951/john-bell.html>