

## **Justice W. Curtis Bok**

1897-1962

### **Term**

November 8, 1958-May 22, 1962

### **Education**

- Williams College, 1915-1917
- University of Virginia, LL.B., 1921

### **Professional Experience**

- Lieutenant Senior Grade, U.S. Navy, World War I, April 7, 1917-June 19, 1919
- Private Practice, McIlhenny & Lambertson, Philadelphia, 1922-1930
- Assistant District Attorney, Philadelphia, 1929
- Bok, Dechert, and Rhoades which developed into Dechert, Bok Smith & Clark, Philadelphia, 1930
- The Voluntary Defender (Counsel), 1930
- Governor George Earle appointed Bok as Judge, Orphans' Court in Philadelphia, 1936
- Judge, Orphans' Court of Philadelphia County, 1936-1938
- Governor George Earle appointed Bok, President Judge of Court of Common Pleas No. 6 of Philadelphia, December 21, 1937; re-elected November 1947 and November 1957
- President Judge of Court of Common Pleas No. 6 of Philadelphia, 1938-1958
- World War II: Chairman of Philadelphia War Labor Board; Deputy Chief Commissioner for War Production Board and Special Assistant in the Office of U.S. Attorney general to hear draft appeal cases.
- Governor George Leader appointed Bok, Justice, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, November 8, 1958
- Elected Justice, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, November 1958
- Died in Office, May 22, 1962

### **Honors and Awards**

- Honorary LL.D. degree, Swarthmore College, 1960
- Athenaeum of Philadelphia Literary Award, 1962 (for his novel Maria)

### **Memberships and Associations**

- American, Pennsylvania, Philadelphia Bar Associations
- American Law Institute
- President, Philadelphia Orchestra Association, 1934
- Officer, Curtis Institute of Music
- Philadelphia Forum
- Committee of Seventy
- American Foundation
- Board of Directors, Girard Trust Company
- Board of Directors, Penn Mutual Life Insurance Company
- Board of Trustees, Eastern State Penitentiary
- Board of Censors, Philadelphia Bar Association
- Radnor Meeting of the Society of Friends
- Merion Cricket Club
- Midday Club
- Cruising Club of American and Ocean Cruising (England) Clubs
- Delaware River Squadron, United States Power Squadrons



## Publications

- American Foundation. Committee on Russian-American Relations. The United States and the Soviet Union; A Report on the Controlling Factors Between the United States and the Soviet Union (1933). Bok was chairman.
- Backbone of the Herring (1941)
- I Too, Nicodemus (1946)
- Pennsylvania. Court of Quarter Sessions of the Peace (Philadelphia Co.) Commonwealth v. Gordon, et Al. The Opinion of Judge Bok, March Eighteenth, 1949 (1949)
- Pennsylvania. Court of Quarter Sessions (Philadelphia County) Commonwealth of Pennsylvania v. Horace Gordon and Joseph Blumfield and Maurice Feigenbaum and Charles Praissman and Samuel Masover. Court of Quarter Sessions, Philadelphia County. June Sessions, 1948 ... Opinion [Of] Bok, J. ... [1949]
- Freedom of the Press. Address by Honorable Curtis Bok. [1950]. Preview Dinner of the Fifth Annual Philadelphia Book Show
- Problems in Criminal Law (1955). Roscoe Pound Lectures, no. 4.
- Star Wormwood (1959)
- Maria: A Tale of the Northeast Coast and of the North Atlantic (1962)

## Articles

- Ulen—Incipiter. 2 The Shingle 32 (1939)
- Ulen—Three Women. 2 The Shingle 57 (1939)
- Ulen—Sec Leg. 2 The Shingle 105 (1939)
- Ulen—Odd People. 2 The Shingle 130 (1939)
- Ulen—Summer Idyll. 2 The Shingle 155 (1939)
- Ulen—A Letter to Father. 2 The Shingle 184 (1939)
- Ulen—The Bema. 2 The Shingle 206 (1939)
- Ulen—What Price New Year. 3 The Shingle 9 (1940)
- Ulen—Small Fry. 3 The Shingle 57 (1940)
- Ulen—The Bema (Finis). 3 The Single 57 (1940)
- Ulen—Charivaria. 3 The Shingle 81 (1940)
- Ulen—Lohgrin. 3 The Shingle 102 (1940)
- Ulen—Hazel Gets Paroled. 3 The Shingle 129 (1940)
- Ulen— Summer Idyll II. 3 The Shingle 154 (1940)
- Ulen—Diapers and Things. 3 The Shingle 182 (1940)
- Ulen—The Flowers, Tra Law. 4 The Shingle 7 (1941)
- Ulen—Judex Rejudicatus. 4 The Shingle 36 (1941)
- Ulen—The Law Puts Asunder—I . 4 The Shingle 58 (1941)
- Ulen—The Law Puts Asunder—II. 4 The Shingle 82 (1941)
- Ulen—The Parties in Interest. 4 The Shingle 109 (1941)
- Ulen—The Parties. 4 The Shingle 129 (1941)
- Ulen—Maine Summer. 4 The Shingle 154 (1941)
- Ulen—Screen Barricado. 4 The Shingle 179 (1941)
- Ulen—Atque Vale. 4 The Shingle 205 (1941)
- Robert Dechert. 5 The Shingle 28 (1942)
- Louis E. Levinthal. 11 The Shingle 51 (1948)

## Sources

84 Pa. Manual 925 (1939 ed.); 95 Pa. Manual 447-48 (1961-62 ed.); 52 National Encyclopedia of America Biography 341 (1970); Jerome J. Shestack, Bok, W. Curtis, The Yale Biographical Dictionary of American Law 58 (Roger K. Newman, ed., 2009); Curtis Bok, Wikipedia, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Curtis\\_Bok](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Curtis_Bok); Justice Curtis Bok Dies at Age 64, 146 Legal Intelligencer 1 (May 23, 1962).