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Montana State University to confer honorary degrees

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FOR RELEASE SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

Montana State University will confer the honorary doctor of laws degree upon four distinguished participants in the dedication of the new law building Sept. 6, MSU President H. K. Newburn announced.

Recipients of the honorary doctorate will be Justice Tom C. Clark of the United States Supreme Court; U. S. District Judge George H. Boldt, Tacoma, Wash.; U. S. District Judge W. D. Murray, Butte, and John C. Satterfield, Yazoo City, Miss., president of the American Bar Association.

The degrees will be awarded at the dedicatory program Wednesday at 2 p. m. in the University Theater. Previous recipients of honorary law degrees from MSU who will be present are Walter L. Pope, former chief judge, Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, San Francisco, Calif.; retired U. S. District Judge Charles N. Pray, Great Falls, and U. S. District Judge William J. Jameson, Billings.

Justice Clark began his legal career in private practice in his native Texas, where he was admitted to the bar in 1922. He was an attorney in the Department of Justice, Washington, D. C., from 1937 until President Truman named him attorney general of the United States in 1945. He was appointed to the Supreme Court in 1949.

Justice Clark’s tenure as attorney general was marked by his vigorous fight for civil rights, his support of public education to combat crime and his unrelenting attack on Communist infiltration.

Judge Boldt received B. A. and LL. B. degrees from MSU. He practiced law in Washington for many years before his appointment to the federal bench in 1953. He is a member of the Institute of Judicial Administration and of the Standing Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure of the Judicial Conference of the United States. He was a U. S. delegate to the first United Nations Congress on Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders at Geneva in 1955.

(more)
On June 30, Judge Boldt sentenced Mickey Cohen to 15 years in federal prison after presiding at a 42-day trial in Los Angeles which resulted in the notorious Cohen’s conviction on several counts of tax evasion.

Judge Murray, also a graduate of the MSU Law School, practiced law in Butte prior to his service in the Navy during World War II. He returned to his practice in Butte after the war and was appointed a U. S. district judge in 1949. He is a former assistant U. S. attorney for Montana.

As chairman of the MSU Law School Board of Visitors, Judge Murray directed the Law School Development Fund Drive this year, a project that has raised about $30,000 for furnishings in the new law building and for financial assistance to law students.

Satterfield has practiced law in Mississippi since 1929. He is a former member of the Mississippi legislature and a past president of the Mississippi Bar Association. He has served on the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws and is a state director of the American Judicature Society. His articles have appeared in a number of legal periodicals.

Satterfield, installed as ABA president in August, is the first Mississippian to head the lawyers’ association.

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