

Wild Bill: The Legend and Life of William O. Douglas

To Download this book in many format Visit :

<https://wocoentala.org/source1/eb91efba647a8a962ee0fcb729856637>

William Orville Douglas was both the most accomplished and the most controversial justice ever to serve on the United States Supreme Court. He emerged from isolated Yakima, Washington, to be dubbed, by the age of thirty, "the most outstanding law professor in the nation"; at age thirty-eight, he was the chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, cleaning up a corrupt Wall Street during the Great Depression; by the age of forty, he was the second youngest Supreme Court justice in American history, going on to serve longer-and to write more opinions and dissents-than any other justice.

In evolving from a pro-government advocate in the 1940s to an icon of liberalism in the 1960s, Douglas became a champion for the rights of privacy, free speech, and the environment. While doing so, "Wild Bill" lived up to his nickname by racking up more marriages, more divorces, and more impeachment attempts aimed against him than any other member of the Court. But it was what Douglas did not accomplish that haunted him: He never fulfilled his mother's ambition for him to become president of the United States.

Douglas's life was the stuff of novels, but with his eye on his public image and his potential electability to the White House, the truth was not good enough for him. Using what he called "literary license," he wrote three memoirs in which the American public was led to believe that he had suffered from polio as an infant and was raised by an impoverished, widowed mother whose life savings were stolen by the family attorney. He further chronicled his time as a poverty-stricken student sleeping in a tent while attending Whitman College, serving as a private in the army during World War I, and "riding the rods" like a hobo to attend Columbia Law School.

Relying on fifteen years of exhaustive research in eighty-six manuscript collections, revealing long-hidden documents, and interviews conducted with more than one hundred people, many sharing their recollections for the first time, Bruce Allen Murphy reveals the truth behind Douglas's carefully constructed image. While William O. Douglas wrote fiction in the form of memoir, Murphy presents the truth with a narrative flair that reads like a novel.

Praise for Bruce Allen Murphy

Fortas: The Rise and Ruin of a Supreme Court Justice

"The tragedy of Abe Fortas, who would have been one of the great chief justices ever, in my opinion, is detailed in vivid fashion by Murphy, who has a case to build and builds it well."
-Larry King, USA Today

"One of the best recent biographies I have read. It brings Fortas to life, explaining his career and how he operated. More than that, it tells the most complete story we have about the events that led to Fortas's downfall. It will be the standard work on this personal and professional tragedy." -Bernard Schwartz, Edwin D. Webb Professor of Law, New York University, author of Super Chief: Earl Warren and His Supreme Court

"An engrossing tale. As in Greek tragedy, flaws of character and hubris led to disaster."-

Raoul Berger, Harvard Law School, author of *Government by Judiciary: The Transformation of the Fourteenth Amendment*

The Brandeis/Frankfurter Connection: The Secret Political Activities of Two Supreme Court Justices

"Murphy challenges us in this pathbreaking and thoroughly documented study to reexamine our preconceptions of the role of the judiciary in American government and society."

-Richard Bernstein, Harvard Law Record
Bruce Allen Murphy is the Fred Morgan Kirby Professor of Civil Rights at Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania. He is the author of the nationally acclaimed and bestselling *The Brandeis/Frankfurter Connection: The Secret Political Activities of Two Supreme Court Justices* (1982) and the Pulitzer Prize-nominated *Fortas: The Rise and Ruin of a Supreme Court Justice* (1988), as well as other books and articles in the field of American government and constitutional law. A native of Abington, Massachusetts, he is an avid fan of the Boston Red Sox and the New England Patriots. He and his wife, Carol L. Wright, live in Center Valley, Pennsylvania, and are the proud parents of two children, Emily and Geoffrey.

Other Books

Scalia. The bestselling historian and journalist James Rosen provides the first comprehensive account of the brilliant and combative Supreme Court justice Antonin Scalia, whose philosophy and judicial opinions defined our legal era. With *SCALIA: Rise to Greatness, 1936-1986*, the opening installment in a two-volume biography, acclaimed reporter and bestselling historian James Rosen provides the first comprehensive account of the life of Justice Antonin Scalia, whose singular career in government—including three decades on the Supreme Court—shaped American law and society in the twenty-first century. Decades in the making, *Rise to Greatness* tells the story of the kid from Queens who became the first Italian American on the Court and one of the most profoundly influential figures of our time. This volume takes us from Scalia's birth to his ascension to the Court, providing a fresh and probing look at his Catholic upbringing and education; his stints in academia and published works, some of them obscure and long-overlooked; and his service in the Nixon and Ford administrations, when Scalia launched the telecommunications revolution, reformed the U.S. intelligence community, and approved classified covert operations. Deeply researched and based on unparalleled access to documentary and personal sources, and written with an intellectual rigor and wit befitting its subject, Rosen's narrative reads like a novel while presenting startling new insight into the life, mind, career, faith, and legacy of the man whom family and friends called "Nino." The result is a compelling portrait of an American legend with whom the author personally corresponded, broke bread, drank wine, and braved the streets of the capital as a (nervous) passenger in the justice's famously speedy BMW. Rosen has unearthed previously unpublished writing from every phase of Scalia's career, including private Supreme Court emails, and has interviewed Scalia's family, classmates, students, colleagues from the Nixon, Ford, and Reagan administrations, priests, poker buddies, hunting companions, and fellow judges and justices. *Rise to Greatness* is a landmark of modern biography, a rich and moving study, accessible to lay readers, that brings to life a towering figure of American history. It is the book Scalia fans, and all citizens interested in

history and the law, have long awaited.

?. ?. ?. ?. ?. Arthur Ciervo, "Profiles: Antonin Scalia (C'57)," Georgetown Today, September 1975 (studies). 4. Antonin Scalia, Scalia Speaks: Reflections on Law, Faith, and Life Well Lived, eds. Christopher J. Scalia and Edward Whelan (New York City: ..."