

PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION  
ON THE  
ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY  
200 Maryland Ave. NE.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20002

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General Counsel

FOR RELEASE ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, 1964

Four distinguished attorneys from various parts of the country today were named as senior counsel in the first appointments of staff to the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy.

The four will assist J. Lee Rankin, general counsel of the Commission, which is headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren. Also appointed today were five younger attorneys, who will assist the four senior counsel, and a special assistant to Mr. Rankin.

Mr. Rankin said the men appointed today will comprise the bulk of the Commission's legal staff, but a few other appointments will be made in the near future. One additional senior staff member who has agreed to serve is in the process of making the necessary arrangements and will be announced next week.

The senior attorneys appointed today are Francis W. H. Adams, New York City; Joseph A. Ball, Los Angeles; William T. Coleman, Jr., Philadelphia; and Albert E. Jenner, Jr., Chicago.

The five junior attorneys are David W. Belin, Des Moines, Iowa; Burt W. Griffin, Cleveland; W. David Slewson, Denver; Arlen Specter, Philadelphia; and Samuel A. Stern, Washington, D. C. The special assistant is Norman Redlich, Professor of Law at New York University School of Law.

All of those appointed will work at the Commission's offices, in the V.F.W. Building, 200 Maryland Avenue, N.E.

Mr. Rankin said the ten men have agreed to serve with the Commission for the duration of its work.

Biographical details about the appointees:

FRANCIS W. H. ADAMS, New York, N. Y. Mr. Adams, 59, is a member of the New York and Washington law firm of Satterlee, Warfield and Stephens. During his career, he has served as Chief Assistant United States Attorney in New York, Special Assistant to the United States Attorney General, and as an arbitrator for the War Labor Board in a number of labor disputes of national importance. In 1954 and 1955, he served as Police Commissioner of New York City.

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Mr. Adams was born in Mt. Vernon, N.Y., was graduated from Williams College, and received his law degree from Fordham in 1928. He is a member of the American College of Trial Lawyers, and was vice-president of the Bar of the City of New York from 1952 to 1954.

JOSEPH A. BALL, Los Angeles, California. Mr. Ball, 61, is widely known as one of the leading practitioners of criminal law in the country and is a member of the firm of Ball, Hunt and Hart, of Long Beach and Santa Ana, Calif. At present, he is a member of the United States Judicial Conference Advisory Committee on the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure. He also serves on the Commission to Revise the Constitution of California. Mr. Ball also is a professor at the University of Southern California, where he teaches criminal law and procedure.

Mr. Ball was born in Stuart, Iowa, was graduated from Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska, and received his law degree from the University of Southern California in 1927. He served as President of the State Bar of California in 1956-57 and as chairman of the National Conference of Bar Presidents in 1960-61. He served on the Board of Regents of the American College of Trial Lawyers from 1952 to 1955.

WILLIAM T. COLEMAN, JR., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Mr. Coleman, 43, is a member of the Philadelphia firm of Dilworth, Paxson, Kalish, Kohn and Dilks. He served as law clerk to Justice Felix Frankfurter of the United States Supreme Court in 1948-49. He has served as a consultant to the federal disarmament agency, and as a member of President Eisenhower's Committee on Government Employment Policy. He was retained as special counsel for the City of Philadelphia on two occasions. He has engaged in extensive trial and appellate litigation in business and corporate matters.

Mr. Coleman was born in Germantown, Pa., graduated from the University of Pennsylvania, and earned his law degree at Harvard Law School. He is a member of various bar associations and is a committee member of the American Arbitration Association.

ALBERT E. JENNER, JR., Chicago, Ill. Mr. Jenner, 56, has been a member of the Chicago firm of Tencropson, Raymond, Mayer and Jenner since 1933 and has served as defense counsel in a number of important criminal prosecutions throughout the country. He is vice chairman of the Joint Committee on the Administration of Justice in the United States, whose chairman is Justice Tom Clark of the United States Supreme Court. In 1956 and 1957, he served as a Special Assistant Attorney General of Illinois, heading an investigation of fraud and mismanagement in the office of the Auditor of Public Accounts of the State of Illinois. He served as a professor of law at Northwestern University School of Law in 1952 and 1953.

Mr. Jenner was born in Chicago and received his law degree from the

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University of Illinois in 1930. He is a member of various bar associations and is a former president of the National Conference of Bar Presidents and of the Illinois State Bar Association. He organized and conducted the National Conference on court reorganization and judicial selection and tenure sponsored by leading legal organizations in 1959 and was co-draftsman of the Illinois Criminal Code in 1935.

JUNIOR COUNSEL: David W. Belin, 35, is a partner in the Des Moines firm of Herrick, Langdon, Sandblom and Belin. He received his law degree in 1954 at the University of Michigan Law School, where he was given the Henry M. Bates Memorial Award, made to the two outstanding members of the graduating class.

Burt W. Griffin, 31, is a trial attorney with the Cleveland firm of McDonald, Hopkins, and Hardy. He received his law degree at Yale in 1959 after which he served as law clerk to Judge George T. Washington of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit and as an Assistant United States Attorney in Cleveland.

W. David Slawson, 32, has just been elected to partnership in the Denver firm of David, Graham and Stubbs in Denver. He was graduated from Amherst College, where he was valedictorian in 1953. He earned his law degree at Harvard in 1959 and has been a National Science Foundation fellow.

Arlen Specter, 33, is chief of the Litigation Division of the District Attorney's office in Philadelphia, supervising the trials and appeals conducted by the office. He is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and received his law degree at Yale in 1956. He is chairman of the Criminal Law Committee of the Philadelphia Bar Association.

Samuel A. Stern, 34, is a partner in the Washington firm of Wilmer, Cutler and Pickering. He is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and received his law degree at Harvard in 1952. Prior to entering private practice, he served as law clerk to Chief Justice Warren after a like position with Chief Judge Calvert Magruder of the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit.

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SPECIAL ASSISTANT: Norman Redlich, 38, is Professor of Law at New York University School of Law. He is a graduate of Williams College and graduated first in his class at Yale Law School in 1950. He is a member of Phi Beta Kappa and Order of the Coif.

After a career in business and law Professor Redlich entered the full-time teaching of law in 1959. He achieved the rank of Associate Professor in 1960 and Professor of Law in 1962, and now specializes in the teaching of constitutional law and taxation.

Professor Redlich is Editor-in-Chief of the Tax Law Review of New York University School of Law, and a member of the Commission on Law and Social Action of the American Jewish Congress.

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