

THE FINEST JUDGES MONEY CAN BUY

The morals of the nation may have changed, but these robed gentlemen represent an illustrative conglomeration who in their own way demonstrate the need for change in judicial selection and supervision.

JUDGE EDWARD A. HAGGERTY, SR. (LOUISIANA)

Criminal Court Judge Edward A. Haggerty presided at the Kennedy conspiracy trial of Clay L. Shaw in New Orleans in 1969. Controversial District Attorney Jim Garrison (who has since faced his own problems) had brought Shaw to trial on charges of conspiring to murder the president. On March 1, 1969, Shaw was fully acquitted.

Nine months later Judge Haggerty was arrested, along with thirteen others, in a motel vice raid. Among the others charged was Malcolm Munday, Jr., who was at one time Garrison's assistant district attorney.

On January 9, 1970, the fifty-six-year-old Haggerty pleaded not guilty to charges of "organizing an assemblage for indecent purposes, procuring lewd films and photographs and procuring prostitutes." The case was heard, without a jury, by Judge Haggerty's fellow judge, Matthew S. Braniff, who ruled that the gathering was a "private" party. He found Haggerty not guilty.

But the Louisiana Judiciary Commission was not satisfied. After a preliminary investigation and a six-day hearing, the commission determined that Judge Haggerty was guilty of charges warranting his removal from the bench. The commis-

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sion submitted a forty-six-page report in support of its opinion, setting forth its conclusive evidence.

A bachelor party honoring Kenneth Reeves was held at the DeVille Motel on Tulane Avenue in New Orleans on December 17, 1969. The local vice squad, which had been investigating illegal lewd parties, learned of the affair and planned a raid. The detectives never realized who would be there.

The police had tipped newsmen about the raid, and photographers were conveniently on hand to get pictures of Judge Haggerty as he struggled with police in an effort to escape the embarrassing scene.

Haggerty had attended and helped arrange the orgy. He contributed money before the party to assist in its arrangement and more money after the party started. Testimony of those present established that Haggerty knew the party was to be held in the DeVille Motel and that he brought the obscene films to the party. The pornographic films were shown to those attending, including three prostitutes whom Judge Haggerty brought to the party. The "hookers" put on a live show and then sold their wares.

Judge Haggerty admitted inviting the trio of "ladies" to the party and accompanying them across the street from the Rowntowner to the DeVille Motel. He claimed the invitation was a joke and that he did not know the women were "working girls."

During the raid Judge Haggerty's personal behavior was not exactly that of an innocent victim caught up in a raid. As the police arrived, he jogged out of the room in which the stag films were being shown, notwithstanding the fact that a police officer had informed him he was under arrest. He resisted the efforts of two other officers to arrest him in the corridor about forty feet from the door of the room he had just left. After the struggle he was brought back to the room

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but again tried to break away, this time slugging one of the officers. He was finally subdued on the motel room floor and handcuffed. Unusual conduct for a respectable member of the judiciary.

It was also shown that Judge Haggerty had regularly participated in illegal gambling activities. He associated with Manuel Soto, a known "bookie" with a rather lengthy criminal record. The judge placed bets with Soto in public, on an almost daily basis.

As further evidence of his versatility, Haggerty frequently associated with a Frank Occhipinti, manager and part owner of the Rowntowner Motor Hotel across the street from the DeVille Motel. Occhipinti, who has admitted significant business dealings with certain underworld characters in the New Orleans area, permitted Judge Haggerty to have a bill at the hotel's bar and restaurant in excess of \$1,700. No request or demand for payment was ever made.

Occhipinti had a brother Roy who had felony charges pending before the criminal district court. As chance would have it, in February of 1969 brother Roy's matter was assigned to Judge Haggerty, who subsequently heard numerous motions in conjunction with the prosecution of the case. The judge made no attempt whatsoever to reassign the case, nor did he excuse himself. Roy frequently visited his brother Frank at the Rowntowner, where the judge often spent his off-the-bench hours.

It appears that Judge Haggerty was interested in other indoor sports at the DeVille Motel besides lewd sex parties. He was also an avid fan of the games there.

Haggerty was often the big winner and was required to pay the rental on the room used for the game. The usual rate was \$12 per night. Between June 24, 1969, and January 15, 1970, forty-two nights' room rental was charged to Haggerty.

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Although Judge Haggerty maintained that all these activities in no way affected his behavior on the bench, on November 23, 1970, the Louisiana Supreme Court, upon the recommendation of the judiciary commission, ruled that he was unfit to be a judge and ordered him removed from office without further delay.

JUDGE FLOYD SARISOHN (NEW YORK)

Floyd S. Sarisohn was admitted to the practice of law in New York State in December 1954. Between January 1, 1960, and December 13, 1963, he served as the duly elected justice of the peace of Smithtown on Long Island. Then he was elected district court judge of Suffolk County for a term of six years beginning January 1, 1964. Judge Sarisohn was a popular young man.

The judge, aged thirty-eight and a veteran of the Korean War, was well respected in his community. He was a vice-president of the Suffolk County Council of the Boy Scouts of America and a director of the Smithtown Young Men's Christian Association.

On August 15, 1966, Judge Sarisohn's career took a nose-dive. The appellate division of the supreme court in Brooklyn announced his suspension from office pending the outcome of an investigation of charges involving moral turpitude in his activities both as a justice of the peace and as a district court judge.

The principal charge against him concerned his relationship