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Valparaiso University School of Law Library

FIRST MONDAY

October 5, 2009

*Celebrating the beginning of a new term
of the United States Supreme Court*

by Sally Holterhoff

The Supreme Court of the United States (often abbreviated as SCOTUS) begins its term, by statute, on the first Monday in October, which this year falls on October 5. On that date the Court formally opens October Term 2009 (OT09).

Although the Court has been in recess since June, it did convene for one day in September for a highly unusual rehearing of a case originally considered last March: *Citizens United v. F.E.C.* The Court's newest member, Justice Sonia Sotomayor, participated in the questioning for this case, which was her first since joining the Supreme Court bench. A final ruling on *Citizens United v. F.E.C.*, which concerns free speech and campaign finance laws, is expected after OT09 begins. Information about Justice Sotomayor's publications, speeches, and previous rulings, as well as her confirmation hearing, is available at www.loc.gov/law/find/sotomayor.php.

Other changes in the lineup on the Court may be coming soon. In early September, when Justice John Paul Stevens had hired only one law clerk for October Term 2010 (justices usually hire four clerks), major news sources speculated he will announce his retirement at the end of October Term 2009. At age 89, Justice Stevens is the second-oldest justice in the history of the Court. The oldest justice was Oliver Wendell Holmes, who retired in 1932 at age 90.



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You Can Read It Here . . .

The Reporter

The Reporter, a newsletter written and produced by the Valpo Law library staff, begins its 19th year with this edition. We usually publish several issues during the school year and offer paper copies in the information holder in the reference area. Issues can also be read on the law school's Web site at www.valpo.edu/law/. Click Law Library > *The Reporter*. Topics for articles include new legal sources in print and online, research strategies, reviews of books and films with legal themes, human interest stories, and library news. We welcome suggestions for future articles.

To keep up with the latest news on the Court, check its official Web site (www.supremecourtus.gov), where you'll find case schedules, calendars, transcripts, opinions, orders, press releases, and other information. Another helpful, though unofficial, source is SCOTUSblog (www.scotusblog.com). Since its creation six years ago by D.C. attorney Tom Goldstein, this respected blog has provided up-to-the-minute news and analysis of the Court and its work. Although SCOTUSblog is hosted on the Web site of D.C. law firm Akin Gump, it is independent and accepts no advertising. Goldstein was recently profiled in the *Washington Post*, and his blog is often quoted by other media sources. A companion site, ScoutusWiki (www.scotuswiki.com), includes a page for each case scheduled for argument in OT09, with detailed previews, recaps, and analyses, as well as links to briefs and other articles of interest.

If you are interested in Supreme Court history, the Supreme Court Historical Society Web site (www.supremecourthistory.org/) offers a profile of every justice who has served on the Court, information on how the Court works, and a guide to researching the Court.

A recent addition to the Valpo Law library's Supreme Court book collection is *A Good Quarrel: America's Top Legal Reporters Share Stories from Inside the Supreme Court* (Timothy R. Johnson and Jerry Goldman, editors). It can be found in the second floor stacks with call number KF8742 .G66 2009. The editors envisioned this book as "a twenty-first century tool for the study of the very style and delivery of the oral arguments that have shaped the history of our nation's highest law." What makes the book particularly unique is its audio supplements, which can be heard at www.goodquarrel.com. These comprise oral arguments, opinions, opinion announcements, and selected clips demonstrating points made in the text.

Through the years, Valpo Law has hosted a number of Supreme Court justices here on campus and at summer sessions abroad in Cambridge, England. Visiting justices have included William Rehnquist, Sandra Day O'Connor, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and Clarence Thomas. In 2007, Justice Antonin Scalia visited the law school for the second time to serve on our Swygert Moot Court panel.

Try our traditional

FIRST MONDAY QUIZ

on page 3 . . .

FIRST MONDAY QUIZ

- 1 Four of the current U.S. Supreme Court justices are graduates of which one of the following law schools?
- A. Columbia
 - B. Yale
 - C. Harvard
 - D. University of Chicago
- 2 Who was the first chief justice of the Supreme Court?
- A. John Marshall
 - B. Salmon P. Chase
 - C. John Rutledge
 - D. John Jay
- 3 What is the inscription on the front façade of the Supreme Court building?
- A. "Equal Justice Under Law"
 - B. "In the Constitution We Trust"
 - C. "Stare Decisis"
 - D. "E Pluribus Unum"
- 4 When the justices vote on cases at their conference, attendance is limited to which of the following?
- A. The nine justices
 - B. The nine justices and their law clerks
 - C. The nine justices, their law clerks, and five reporters designated by the press corps
- 5 Who is the only U.S. president in the past sixty years who did not appoint a Supreme Court justice?
- A. George W. Bush
 - B. Gerald Ford
 - C. Jimmy Carter
 - D. Bill Clinton

- 6 Who was the only U.S. president to later serve on the Supreme Court?
- A. Thomas Jefferson
 - B. Ulysses S. Grant
 - C. Andrew Johnson
 - D. William Howard Taft
- 7 Which of these justices was not nominated by a Republican?
- A. Sandra Day O'Connor
 - B. Lewis Powell
 - C. Steven Breyer
 - D. David Souter
- 8 Who was one of the first two choices by President Ronald Reagan to fill the Supreme Court seat that eventually went to Anthony Kennedy?
- A. Robert Bork
 - B. Harold Carswell
 - C. John Ashcroft
 - D. Mahlon Pitney
- 9 Joseph Story, appointed to the Supreme Court in 1811 by President James Madison, is the youngest person ever to become a justice. What was his age when he joined the Court?
- A. 28
 - B. 32
 - C. 40
 - D. 43

Answers:

- 9. B
- 8. A
- 7. C
- 6. D
- 5. C
- 4. A
- 3. A
- 2. D
- 1. C