



JULE WIMBERLY FELTON served on the Court of Appeals of Georgia for 32 years, 1937-1969, and on the State Supreme Court, 1969-1971. He was born on August 22, 1898, in Montezuma, Macon County, Georgia, and died in Atlanta on December 21, 1978.

He attended public schools in Montezuma; a military school, Webb School in Bell Buckle, Tennessee; Emory College at Oxford, Georgia, for two years. He graduated from Mercer University with A.B. and LL.B. degrees and was first honor graduate at law in 1919. He belonged Phi Delta Theta social fraternity. He began the practice of law in Montezuma in 1919.

He married Mary Julia Sasnett in Jackson, Butts County, Georgia, on June 24, 1930. They had one child, Jule Wimberly Felton, Jr., who has served as president of the Atlanta Bar Association and the State Bar of Georgia. His father was a Judge of the City Court of Oglethorpe. See the memorial dated June 7, 1979, in 243 Georgia Reports, pages XXIX-XLII as to names of grandchildren, other family history, and other achievements.

He was Mayor of Montezuma for seven years; a Mason; belonged to the Methodist Church in Montezuma and later the First Methodist Church in Atlanta; was on the Board of Stewards and was a Sunday school teacher of the Henry W. Grady Bible Class. He and his wife sang duets at church and Sunday school. He served on the Georgia Public Service Commission for almost two years. He served 15 years as Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals and authored the Court motto inscribed in the courtroom, which reads: "Upon the integrity, wisdom and independence of the judiciary depend the sacred rights of free men."

Judge Robert H. Hall has said, "I have known no jurist more dedicated to the law and the judiciary than Jule W. Felton, Sr. His manner was dignified, kind and intellectual." Others said, "He was a brilliant and fearless judge, who labored hard and long and with dedication to bring justice and order to his state." He had a desire "to get it right" in the law. He was a Christian gentleman and "he was a man who believed in justice. He resonated to the word as a good violin does to the bow of a musician." He was sincere and humble and not "puffed up." One of his sayings was: "If it takes a friend to make a dollar, save the friend. If it takes a dollar to make a friend, save the dollar."