

Revised  
5-1-06

THEME 3

FADE IN:

Superimposed is the title: "The Expansion of the Court"

Camera pans over the newspaper article "Appeals Court Starts to Work" from 1907.

NARRATOR

By January of 1907, the idea of relieving the Supreme Court's workload had taken effect. Immediately, 156 cases had filled the Court of Appeals young docket.

Camera pans DOWN the newspaper article "Appeals Court Opens Session" from 1907. We see the article's paragraph referring to the 156 cases.

NARRATOR

Of those first 156 cases, 155 had been transferred from the Supreme Court. In less than one decade of existence, the Court would hear another 6,000 cases. It was official - the formation of the Court of Appeals had accomplished what it had been created to do.

<Insert appropriate B-roll here>

NARRATOR

If there is such a thing as too much success, the Georgia Court of Appeals - during the early 1900s - certainly demonstrated it. By 1915 the Court of Appeals was hearing 1,600 cases per year and turning out more opinions each year, per judge, than any other court of review in the United States.

We see the building of the Georgia Bar Association.

NARRATOR

Despite all this, once again the Georgia Bar Association realized an expansion of this new Court was looming.

We see a PowerPoint type of graphic for the following facts.

NARRATOR

Fact 1. Despite all the work by the Court of Appeals, the Supreme Court remained roughly one term behind in the hearing of its cases.

Fact 2. For two years, no justice of the Supreme Court or Court of Appeals was able to attend the Bar Association's annual meetings.

Fact 3. Both the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals had to move to a continuous session, leaving no room for even the briefest of vacations.

The Secretary of the Georgia Bar Association, 1915:

We see the Georgia Bar Association building again.

SECRETARY

The idea that the Supreme Court and our Court of Appeals having to work straight through without a day's vacation all last year, and then again this year, and not being able to come to the Bar Association at all, and not get away for anything at any time, is enough to make this thing get on our nerves. We all miss the judges at our meetings.

SECRETARY (CONT.)

We are accustomed to having them with us, or some of them at any rate, and not having any one of them with us this time has prompted me to undertake to draw a resolution.

We see the newspaper clipping from 1916 "Jurisdiction of Court of Appeals Broadened by New Georgia Law".

NARRATOR

The Bar Association's resolution did not fall on deaf ears. By 1916, the State Legislature passed two bills meant to reduce the workload of the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals.

We see a PowerPoint type of graphic showing the types of cases heard by both court. Certain cases move over to the column of the Court of Appeals.

NARRATOR (CONT.)

The first legislation increased the types of cases allowed to be tried in front of the Court of Appeals, thus reducing by 40 percent the caseload of the Supreme Court.

We see the newspaper clipping "Three More Judges for Appellate Court" from 1916.

NARRATOR (CONT.)

The second legislation increased the number of judges on the Court of Appeals from three to six and divided the Court into two divisions of three judges each that would hear cases separately. One division heard only criminal cases, the other heard only civil cases.

<Insert appropriate B-roll here>

NARRATOR

In the Democratic primary of 1916, the people of Georgia nominated judges. However, with 14 candidates vying for three judgeships, none garnered the required number of votes to place them on the November general election ballot.

} Revised

We see one of the newspaper articles regarding the 1916 election returns.

NARRATOR

The onus of selecting the three judicial nominees would fall to a group of delegates, each representing the counties of Georgia at the state's Democratic Convention later that fall.

} Revised

Camera scrolls DOWN the newspaper article from 1916 "Convention Will Act on Judgeships".

NARRATOR

After three rounds of voting, the delegates named only three men as nominees, assuring their places on the bench.

} Revised

We see photos of the following justices:

NARRATOR

Walter Franklin George,  
Roscoe Luke, and  
William Franklin Jenkins

We see one of the newspaper articles regarding the 1916 election returns.

NARRATOR

Ironically, the two men who received the most votes from the general public - Oliver Hazzard Bartow Bloodworth and Alexander William Stephens - were not placed on the ballot by the delegates. However, they would eventually be appointed to the Court, Bloodworth in 1916 and Stephens two years later.

<Insert appropriate B-roll here>

NARRATOR

Four decades would pass before the Court of Appeals would need to expand again.

We see the newspaper article from Feb. 10, 1960 regarding the expansion of the court.

NARRATOR

In 1960, the Court would add a seventh judge, with four judges sitting in one division and three in the other. Civil and criminal caseloads would continue to be heard separately by the two divisions.

We see a picture of these seven judges.

NARRATOR

Each division would independently hear and decide cases assigned to it, but in cases where there was a dissent within the division, the entire court would be called together to render a verdict.

CUT TO interviews of experts talking about these changes.

We see the photo of seven judges. It morphs into a photo of 9 judges.

NARRATOR

Expansion would occur again one year later, making the Court a 9 member body. In 1996, the Court grew to 10 judges.

The photo morphs again.

NARRATOR

Finally, in 1999, the Court reached its current size of 12 judges.

The photo morphs one final time.

NARRATOR

Today, the Court of Appeals hears cases in four divisions of three judges each. The Chief Justice determines which judges make up each division and which cases are heard by each division.

Today, the Court which started as an idea, sees over 3,600 cases each year.

FADE OUT:

Revised

1-30-06

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The Secretary of the Georgia Bar Association, 1915:

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*Stamping Secretary*

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<Insert appropriate B-roll here>

Went  
on Ballot  
↑

Democratic Primary  
29-12-16

NARRATOR

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We see one of the newspaper articles regarding the 1916 election returns.

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The onus of selecting the three newest judges would fall to a group of delegates, each representing the counties of Georgia at the state's Democratic Convention.

Camera scrolls DOWN the newspaper article from 1916 "Convention Will Act on Judgeships".

NARRATOR

After three rounds of voting, the delegates named the following men as the newest Court of Appeals justices:

Judges

We see photos of the following justices:

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Walter Franklin George,  
Roscoe Luke, and  
William Franklin Jenkins

We see one of the newspaper articles regarding the 1916 election returns.

~~By 1916 State Legislature Passed 2 Bills~~

In the same year the

NARRATOR

Ironically, the two men who received the most votes from the general public - Oliver Hazzard Bartow Bloodworth and Alexander William Stephens - would not be elected by the delegates. However, they would eventually be appointed to the Court, Bloodworth in 1916 and Stephens two years later.

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