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Book Review - Elbert Parr Tuttle: Chief Justice of the Civil Rights Revolution

Maxwell Hackman

Daytona State College, maxwell.hackman@daytonastate.edu

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Off the SHELF

Elbert Parr Tuttle: Chief Justice of the Civil Rights Revolution by Anne Emanuel (The University of Georgia Press, 2011: ISBN 978-0-8203-4745-5, \$28.95)

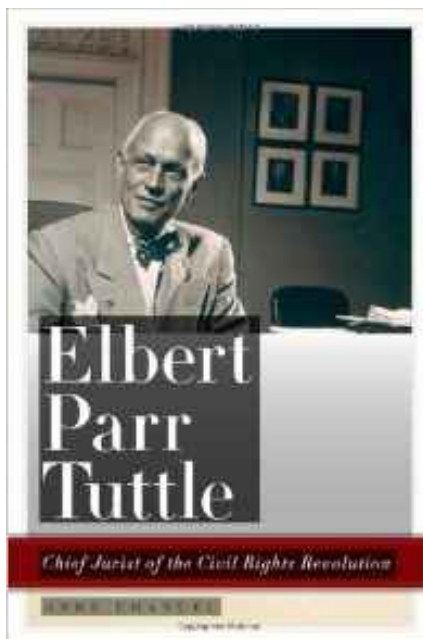
The accomplishments of the Civil Rights movement appear inevitable from today's progressive perspective, but that is far from the truth of the matter. Elbert Tuttle became chief judge for the US Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit six years after the Supreme Court ruled on *Brown v. Board of Education*. This book goes into great detail on the difficult task Judge Tuttle had of enforcing *Brown v. Board* in the Southern states that make up the Fifth Circuit. It outlines the life and career of Elbert Parr Tuttle and highlights his upbringing that laid the foundation for his exceptional law career that culminated with the honor of having the Eleventh Circuit headquartered at the Elbert Parr Tuttle United States Court of Appeals Building in his adopted hometown of Atlanta, Georgia.

Mr. Tuttle spent his formative years growing up in Hawaii and attended Punahou Academy, which had been racially integrated by the time the Tuttle family arrived in 1907. Mr. Tuttle excelled at school and received his undergraduate and law degree from Cornell University. Mr. Tuttle also fought in both World Wars and was also a member of the Georgia National Guard.

In 1919 Elbert Tuttle married Sara Sutherland. The Sutherland family was deeply loyal to the

old South and its traditions. In 1923 Elbert moved his family to Atlanta, Georgia, where most of Sara's immediate family then lived. In 1924 Elbert and his brother-in-law, Bill Sutherland, started their own law firm, Sutherland & Tuttle, with tax and commercial law being the firm's primary focus.

After WWII Tuttle became more active in the Republican Party and was instrumental in helping Dwight D. Eisenhower secure the Republican nomination for President. In 1953 Mr. Tuttle agreed to serve as general counsel to the Department of the Treasury but only planned on serving for two years. However, in 1954, Mr. Tuttle accepted the Presidential appointment to the Fifth Circuit.



Once on the court, Judge Tuttle realized that many of the states that the Fifth Circuit oversaw were deeply resistant to ending school segregation. Even in Georgia, the state legislature had enacted a law that would

deny state funds to any school that educated both black and white students, including the University of Georgia (UGA).

In the desegregation of UGA, Judge Tuttle would end up playing a crucial role. He understood the time sensitive nature of the appeals he oversaw and made sure that justice was not delayed. Anne Emanuel uses great detail to illustrate the complicated ways in which the states of the Fifth Circuit tried to prevent desegregation and how Judge Tuttle was able to overcome the legal obstructions thrown his way. Judge Tuttle would end up

working late into life, still going into the office regularly until 1993 when he turned 96 years old.

This book is recommended for law, academic, and public libraries.

*Maxwell Hackman is Access Services Librarian
at Daytona State College*