

JESSE SPENCER BELL, Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, native of Charlotte, graduate of ^{Duke} ~~this~~ university in the Class of 1927, ^{University of North Carolina} and of the Law School ~~of Duke University~~ in 1930, has devoted his life to the welfare and advancement of his community, his state and his profession. Admitted to the bar in 1929, he became successively president of his local association, chairman of important local and state committees of the Bar, and president, in 1953, of the State Bar Association. His diligent efforts as chairman of the Association's Committee on Continuing Legal Education, and later, of its Committee on Improving and Expediting the Administration of Justice, had far-reaching and salutary effects and earned for him the John J. Parker Award and a citation from the American Bar Association.

Enlisting as a private in World War II, he rose to the rank of Major; elected as Senator from Mecklenburg in 1957, and in 1961, he was voted by newspapermen the Assembly's "most useful member." Public-spirited, far-seeing, and dynamic executive, Judge Bell, through his activities with the Mecklenburg County Planning Board and the Social Planning Council of that community, prompted her citizens to assume their civic responsibilities, promoted better race relations, and finally, promulgated and successfully fought for her first comprehensive scientific zoning plan and ordinance.

Next, turning his attention beyond the borders of his community, Judge Bell became a prime mover in expediting legislation which has completely reorganized the State court system.

Champion of just causes, leader and prophet of a better order, jurist of experience and vision, he has ever stood in the front ranks of progress, a shining example of the true meaning of our university motto, Lux, Libertas. Proud of his accomplishments, the University of North Carolina is honored to bestow on him the degree of Doctor of Laws.

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Commencement, June 6, 1966