

Underneath Their Robes

News, gossip, and colorful commentary about the federal judiciary.

August 04, 2005

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The Roberts' Adoptions: What We Do Know

Earlier today, [Article III Groupie](#) noticed a dramatic upward spike in traffic to her blog, fueled largely by [Google](#) searches like "[John Roberts](#)" adoption, [john roberts children](#), "[judge roberts](#)" adopted children, etc. She also noticed a number of odd searches that combined the topics of the [New York Times](#), adoption, and our fabulous Supreme Court nominee, [Judge John G. Roberts, Jr.](#) (such as "[new york times](#)" roberts adoption).*

A3G was somewhat puzzled by these searches. But then she came across [this Wonkette post](#), which in turn directed her to [this Drudge Report item](#), which indicated that the [New York Times](#) is investigating the adoption records of Judge and Mrs. Roberts's two absolutely adorable, adopted children: Josephine Roberts, age 5, and [dancing Jack Roberts](#), age 4.

Now, an apparent digression. In his excellent essay "[Bad News](#)," which appeared this past Sunday in the [New York Times Book Review](#), [Judge Richard A. Posner](#) conducted a penetrating, endlessly interesting analysis of the predicament of the mainstream news media.** He noted the competition that the media now face from bloggers, observing that "bloggers are parasitical on the conventional media. They copy the news and opinion generated by the conventional media, often at considerable expense, without picking up any of the tab."***

So back to our SCOTUS nominee, Judge John Roberts; his wife, [Jane Sullivan Roberts](#); and their two kids, Josie Roberts and Jack Roberts. The topic of the Roberts adoptions is obviously a sensitive one that should be handled with care. Accordingly, in order to avoid crossing any lines or violating the privacy of the Roberts family, A3G will demonstrate Judge Posner's point: **she will function parasitically with respect to prior news media coverage of the Roberts adoption**, by bringing to your attention various facts that legitimate news organizations have already unearthed and reported. Thus, if you have a problem with any of the information appearing below, you should take it up not with A3G, but with the professional news publication that originally broadcasted it (to an audience vastly larger than A3G's).

Without further ado, here are a few facts about the Roberts' adoptions, as previously reported by the mainstream media (which A3G has merely collected and reshaped into an easy-to-follow, question-and-answer format):

1. Why did Judge and Mrs. Roberts decide to adopt?

The [Washington Post](#) offers this account:

In 1996 [Jane Sullivan Roberts] married John Roberts, whom she had met once years earlier through mutual friends. (One of the groomsmen was Michael Luttig, an appeals court judge who was also on the short list for the Supreme Court nomination.) By then she was 42, and Catholic doctrine prohibits most forms of fertility treatment. She and her husband went through an "uncertain difficult period where she wanted badly to have children," says [[Pillsbury Winthrop partner](#)] [Tina Kearns](#).

For a long time the adoption process didn't work out, but Roberts never lost hope, Kearns says. Five years ago they adopted a daughter, Josephine, and in less than a year a son, John, and Roberts was suddenly a 45-year-old mother of two infants.

2. Where are the Roberts children from originally?

According to [Time](#) magazine, they were born in Ireland:

[Jack McCay](#), law partner of Roberts' wife Jane and a friend, speaks of the couple's adoption of John (Jack) and Josephine, born in Ireland 4 1/2 months apart. "As frequently happens when you go through the adoption process, some of the efforts weren't successful, and it continued for a time ... But when the opportunity came along to have not just one but two kids, they took both babies without blinking."

As the foregoing indicates, because the children are so close in age -- less than 9 months apart -- Josie and Jack are not siblings (even though they [look like they could be related](#)). Their being Irish-born is not entirely surprising, in light of the fact

that Mrs. Roberts's family "held onto its ties to Ireland, keeping a family home in the small town of Knocklong in the County of Limerick, where they still gather at least every two years" (as reported by the [New York Times](#)).

3. *So were the children adopted from Ireland?*

This is not clear -- the [Associated Press](#) reports that they were "adopted from Latin America." This seems a bit puzzling, in light of the [Time](#) magazine report indicating that the children were born in Ireland. Also, their blonde hair and fair skin do not seem conventionally Latin American. Perhaps the children were born in Ireland, but were in Latin America immediately prior to their adoption.

4. *How were the children adopted?*

According to [The New York Times](#), based on information from Mrs. Roberts's sister, Mary Torre, the children were adopted through a private adoption. As explained by [Families for Private Adoption](#), "[p]rivate (or independent) adoption is a legal method of building a family through adoption without using an adoption agency for placement. In private adoption, the birth parents relinquish their parental rights directly to the adoptive parents, instead of to an agency."

Apparently the process of adopting Jack involved some stress for John Roberts. According to [Dan Klaidman](#) of [Newsweek](#), during the contested 2000 election, Roberts "spent a few days in Florida advising lawyers [for George W. Bush] on their legal strategy," but "he did not play a central role," because "at the time, Roberts was preoccupied with the adoption of his son."

5. *Do the Roberts children go to day care or school? Who takes care of them?*

Per the [Washington Post](#), the children attend Episcopal Day School. Jane Roberts now has more time to spend with her kids, since "[t]wo years ago she scaled down [her work at [Pillsbury Winthrop](#)] -- she stopped practicing law and was tapped to start the firm's in-house training and evaluation program."

Okay, for the time being, that's "all the news that's fit to print," as the Times-folk like to say. Article 3 Groupie thanks the news publications cited above for their reporting. As previously noted, she has done no original reporting of her own for this post, and she therefore has not disclosed any information that was not previously disseminated by a major news organization. (She also cannot vouch for the accuracy of the foregoing information, which may contain errors.)

A3G hopes that you've found this collection of links and excerpts edifying. Good night!

* Also, today lots of people were running searches along the lines of "[Katherine Harris](#)" nude -- perhaps in the wake of what [Wonkette](#) has dubbed [Katherine Harris's Extreme Makeover](#). [Congresswoman Harris](#) sure looks fantastic!

Oh, and Representative Harris [blogs](#), too. Her blog didn't exist back in 2000, though, so liberals shouldn't go looking for archived entries like, "Today I [helped Bush steal the presidential election](#). Oh, and I tried those rice snacks called [Quakes](#) for the first time. Gosh they're good! Rice cakes really aren't my thing -- they usually taste like crap -- but these ones are pretty yummy. Can you believe they're only 70 calories per serving?"

** Of course, [some people disagreed](#) strongly with Judge Posner's analysis, which is to be expected when one writes a lengthy and probing piece on a controversial topic.

In their [introduction](#) to Judge Posner's piece, the editors of the Book Review wrote:

How does Richard A. Posner do it? A federal appeals court judge, a senior lecturer at the University of Chicago Law School, an editor of *The American Law and Economics Review* and a blogger, he is the author of 38 books, more than 300 articles and book reviews (including one, in these pages last year, of the 9/11 Commission Report), and almost 2,200 published judicial opinions. One reaches for science fiction explanations: Posner has cloned himself; he has found a way to slow down time. **Surely it's the case that he never sleeps.**

Perhaps it's time to run a correction? If the editors were readers of this blog, they would know that Judge Posner [sleeps an average of six hours each night](#).

*** Bloggers are competing with the newspapers. But now the newspapers are turning the tables, by competing with the bloggers. Various newspapers are sponsoring their own blogs, such as the Los Angeles Times's [LiveCurrent](#) blog and the Washington Post's [Campaign for the Court](#) blog.

August 04, 2005 at 11:10 PM in [Banging Her Own Gavel: UTR Navel-Gazing by A3G](#), [Public Figures](#), [Private Lives: Life Beyond the Courthouse](#), [Report from the Front Lines: Judicial Nomination Warfare](#), [Searching Underneath the Robes](#), [UTR News and Views](#) | [Permalink](#)

Comments



Did you ever stop to think that maybe Mrs. Roberts has a medical issue which is her business which prevented her from having kids even if she was 42 when she got married? Leave them alone!!! It is beautiful that they adopted kids who were not wanted by the bio parents. At least they are not typical Catholic parents who have 10 or 15 kids and contribute to the population explosion as the Pope and Bishops want - - which is easy for them to say since they are celibate and don't have to pay to raise kids!!!

Posted by: Roger Plevak | [October 05, 2005 at 11:14 AM](#)



Does Ireland place children for adoption internationally? If not, then he probably did some finagling to have the children sent to Bolivia so they could adopt them in that country. But that doesn't really make any sense, as he and his wife are not citizens of Bolivia.

A possible scenario: The Roberts wanted to adopt, put out some feelers, found two pregnant women around the same time in Ireland, and it was all arranged privately. I don't think it's common practice to set out to adopt one child and then suddenly have an opportunity to adopt a second almost immediately after. Usually, for the common folk, you have to wait and then go through the process again for the 2nd child.

But the scenario above would enable them to skirt US (?) and Irish law, perhaps.

The fishy thing is who was responsible for the children after they left Ireland and arrived Bolivia? I don't think an adoption agency would be party to whatever occurred here.

Posted by: [Ellen](#) | [August 09, 2005 at 11:07 PM](#)



one helluva post...you have incredible research skills (which the mainstream media - for all their money - have nothing on the bloggers who dig like you) and you're hysterical. I'll definitely be back for more.

Posted by: [Ron Brynaert](#) | [August 09, 2005 at 09:56 PM](#)



One point--while I understand what you meant to say, the Roberts kids are siblings, and they are related. By adoption. That's the whole *point* of adoption--adopted children join the family of the parents and become their children, and the siblings of the parents' other kids.

Posted by: x | [August 09, 2005 at 11:36 AM](#)



Hurting on Judge Posner's article:

<http://www.slate.com/id/2123764>

Posted by: Horatii's Sister | [August 05, 2005 at 02:08 PM](#)



Katherine Harris is joke.

Posted by: | [August 05, 2005 at 11:09 AM](#)

The comments to this entry are closed.

About Me

Article III Groupie is a federal judicial starf**ker.



contact

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one-line bio

Article III Groupie is a federal judicial starf**ker.

biography

Article III Groupie ("A3G") graduated from an Ivy League college in the mid-1990s and a top five law school in the late-1990s, with nearly perfect transcripts at both institutions. During law school, she served on the board of the law review, and after graduation, she clerked for a highly respected federal appeals court judge. She had multiple Supreme Court clerkship interviews, but they ended in tragedy (i.e., with her not getting a job with the Supremes).

Article Three Groupie then went to work for a large law firm in a major city, where she now toils in obscurity. During her free time, she consoles herself through the overconsumption of luxury goods. Her goal in life is to become a federal judicial diva.

Article 3 Groupie depends on you, her loyal readers and correspondents, for scrumptious tidbits of news and gossip about federal judges. Please e-mail her with the inside scoop!

Pursuant to A3G's standard e-mail policy, anything that you email to her may be published in "Underneath Their Robes" ("UTR"), but on an anonymous basis. If A3G would like to attribute anything to you by name, she will obtain your consent prior to doing so. She is grateful for (almost) all reader correspondence, and she apologizes in advance for not being able to respond to every email message that she receives.

interests

us weekly, this weblog, gossip, "underneath their robes" ("utr"), reflects article iii groupie's interest in, and obsession with, the federal judiciary. utr is a combination of people, page six, the national enquirer, and tigerbeat, focused not on vacuous movie stars or fatuous teen idols, but on federal judges. article iii judges are legal celebrities, the "rock stars" of the legal profession's upper echelons. this weblog is a source of news, and colorful commentary about these judicial superstars!

Underneath Their Robes

News, gossip, and colorful commentary about the federal judiciary.

July 20, 2005

Quiz Show: Judge John G. Roberts!!!



Earlier tonight, President Bush nominated **Judge John G. Roberts, Jr., of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit**, to become an Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. Article III Groupie is pleased as punch by the President's choice. After all, you can't go wrong by picking a Superhottie of the Federal Judiciary to serve on the SCOTUS! A3G also feels somewhat vindicated, having identified Judge Roberts's nomination as a strong possibility back in this post (comparing the Supreme Court nomination process to the Oscars).

Now that everyone is dying for more information about Judge Roberts, who is more qualified than A3G to get "underneath his robe"? As she previously did for then-Judge Michael Chertoff, A3G has prepared the following quiz, which will allow you to test your knowledge about Judge John Roberts. It's derived largely from information obtained from Judge Roberts's Senate questionnaire, submitted in connection with his D.C. Circuit nomination, and his financial disclosure form. (Both of these documents are available as pdf files from Courting Influence.)

So, for your entertainment and edification, here are 14 trivia questions about Judge Roberts. Keep track of how many questions you answer correctly, and see how you measure up using the scale that appears at the end of the quiz. After taking the quiz, you'll know all there is to know about this fabulous judicial celebrity!

Let's get started, shall we?

1. John Glover Roberts was born to Jack and Rosemary Roberts on January 27, 1955, in Buffalo, New York. His father, an engineer by training, worked for Bethlehem Steel (as noted in this profile). In terms of siblings, Judge Roberts has:

- (a) one sister
- (b) a brother and a sister
- (c) two brothers
- (d) three sisters
- (e) none; he's an only child

Answer: (d). In his remarks at the news conference announcing his nomination, Judge Roberts thanked his three sisters -- Cathy, Peggy and Barbara -- for their support. When Senate Democrats start grilling Judge Roberts about his commitment to "women's issues" (read: abortion on demand), expect Judge Roberts to cite his growing up in a household with four women as giving him a sensitivity to women's concerns.

Update: He is not related to Julia Roberts (see item #5).

2. In terms of his religious beliefs, Judge Roberts is:

- (a) Protestant
- (b) Catholic
- (c) Jewish
- (d) atheist

Answer: (b). Judge Roberts's Catholicism could have been a factor that moved him to the top of President Bush's shortlist, insofar as it might suggest a willingness to revisit Roe v. Wade (which would please the Republican Party's conservative base). Of course, being a devout Catholic could also make it more difficult for Judge Roberts to win confirmation, if Senate Democrats suspect that his personal religious views might affect his judicial decisionmaking.

3. Although he was born in Buffalo, Judge Roberts grew up in Indiana, to which the Roberts family moved after his father was transferred to run a steel plant there. During high school, he was the captain of:

- (a) *the football team*
- (b) *the baseball team*
- (c) *the chess team*
- (d) *the academic decathlon team*
- (e) *no team; he focused on his schoolwork*

Answer: (a), impressively enough. How well-rounded of him! In addition to playing football, John Roberts also wrestled for his high school team. Of course, given his brilliance and subsequent academic achievement, one can't be faulted for guessing (c), (d), or (e).

John Roberts is clearly a man who has it all: a razor-sharp mind, great good looks, athleticism, a loving and adorable family, and *mucho dinero* (as discussed infra). If Judge Roberts weren't such a nice and decent person, we would all really hate him!

4. *To pay his way through Harvard College -- from which he graduated in only three years, summa cum laude, with a degree in history -- Judge Roberts spent summers working in:*

- (a) *a law library*
- (b) *a steel mill*
- (c) *a physician's office*
- (d) *Chippendales*
- (e) *a department store (men's neckwear)*

Answer: (b), surprisingly enough. A3G would pay good money for pictures of a young, sweaty John Roberts toiling in a steel mill, in a hard hat and tank top! As you can see from the college yearbook photo at right, reprinted in the Harvard Crimson, John Roberts was just as good-looking back then as he is today. (In fact, like the vast majority of human beings, Judge Roberts was arguably better-looking when he was younger. Whether you agree with this statement depends on whether you place greater value on a youthful face, which he had back then, or a better haircut, which he has today.)



As for answer (d), Chippendales -- well, a girl can dream, can't she?

5. *After graduating magna cum laude from Harvard Law School, where he served as managing editor of the Harvard Law Review, Judge Roberts clerked for:*

- (a) *Judge Carl McGowan (D.C. Cir.), then Justice Marshall*
- (b) *Judge David Bazelon (D.C. Cir.), then Justice Powell*
- (c) *Judge Henry J. Friendly (2d Cir.), then Justice Rehnquist*
- (d) *Judge J. Skelly Wright (D.C. Cir.), then Justice Rehnquist*

Answer: (c); this question was a "gimme." It is widely known that Judge Roberts used to work at Friendly's and that he clerked for William H. Rehnquist, who was then an Associate Justice. What's interesting is that now that Chief Justice Rehnquist is sticking around One First Street, the Chief might end up serving on the Court alongside his former clerk. (Perhaps the possibility of serving together with his former clerk, with whom he remains close, was an incentive for WHR to hang in there for one more term?)

The phenomenon of former law clerks serving alongside their judges happens with some regularity on the circuit courts. There's Samuel Alito and Leonard Garth on the Third Circuit, Eric Clay and Damon Keith on the Sixth Circuit, and Diane Sykes and Terence Evans on the Seventh Circuit. The Ninth Circuit has at least three such pairings: Richard Clifton and the late Herbert Choy, She-Who-Must-Not-Be-Named and James Browning, and superhottie Kozinski and then-Judge Kennedy. But, as one curious UTR reader asks, when was the last time it happened at the Supreme Court (if ever)?

Update: A well-informed reader offers this enlightening response: "Never. There have been four Supreme Court law clerks who were later Justices: Justice White (clerked for Chief Justice Vinson), Chief Justice Rehnquist (clerked for Justice Jackson), Justice Stevens (clerked for Justice Rutledge), and Justice Breyer (clerked for Justice Goldberg). A scan of the lists reflects that there is no overlap between the terms of service of any of these pairs of names."

6. *After his clerkships, from 1981 to 1986, Judge Roberts spent several years as a government lawyer. He served in:*

- (a) *the Department of Justice's super-elite Office of Legal Counsel*
- (b) *the DOJ's highly influential Office of Legal Policy*

- (c) the DOJ, as a special assistant to Attorney General William French Smith, followed by the White House Counsel's Office
 (d) the justly celebrated U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York
 (e) the Solicitor General's Office (which needs no adjectives)

Answer: (c). Judge Roberts served from August 1981 to November 1982 as Special Assistant to Attorney General Smith, and from November 1982 to May 1986 as Associate Counsel to President Ronald Reagan, in the White House Counsel's Office. To those of you who selected (e), it wasn't a bad choice -- Judge Roberts did work in the SG's office (although not at this point in his career).

7. From 1986 to 1989, Judge Roberts worked for which exceedingly prestigious, white-shoe Washington law firm:

- (a) Hogan & Hartson
 (b) Covington & Burling
 (c) Williams & Connolly
 (d) Wilmer Cutler & Pickering
 (e) Kirkland & Ellis (D.C. office)

Answer: (a). Judge Roberts joined Hogan & Hartson as an associate in May 1986, and he was elected a general partner of the firm in October 1987. He resigned his partnership in October 1989 to assume the post of Principal Deputy Solicitor General, but he returned to the partnership in January 1993. He remained at Hogan, where he headed up the firm's appellate practice, until his 2003 appointment to the D.C. Circuit.

Response (e) is not a bad answer, given the proliferation of high-powered conservative lawyers who have passed through, and continue to populate, the halls of Kirkland & Ellis's Washington office (e.g., Ken Starr).

8. From 1989 to 1993, Judge Roberts served as the Principal Deputy Solicitor General of the United States, under Solicitor General Kenneth W. Starr. During his time in the SG's office, he worked on many prominent cases before the Supreme Court.

Which of the following cases from Judge Roberts's stint in the SG's office is NOT mentioned in the Senate questionnaire he submitted in connection with his D.C. Circuit nomination, in response to the request for descriptions of "the ten most significant litigated matters which you personally handled"?

- (a) *United States v. Kokinda*
 (b) *Lujan v. National Wildlife Federation*
 (c) *ICC v. Boston & Maine Corp.*
 (d) *Rust v. Sullivan*

Answer: (d). *Quelle surprise!* If not for his involvement in *Rust v. Sullivan*, in which he co-authored a Supreme Court brief arguing that the sacred cow of *Roe v. Wade* was wrongly decided, Judge Roberts would have a 99 percent chance of confirmation (instead of the 90 percent chance that he currently enjoys).

9. In January 1993, Judge Roberts returned to Hogan & Hartson, where he cemented his well-deserved reputation as one of the most talented members of the Supreme Court bar, as well as one of the nation's top appellate lawyers. He also raked in some serious dough. In 2003, the last year he was a partner at Hogan, Judge Roberts earned:

- (a) \$400,000-\$600,000
 (b) \$600,000-\$800,000
 (c) \$800,000-\$1,000,000
 (d) \$1,000,000-\$2,000,000
 (e) over \$2 million

Answer: (d). According to his 2004 financial disclosure statement, he earned \$1,044,399.54 in gross income from Hogan & Harton in 2003. Not bad, especially for an appellate lawyer!

(Yes, A3G realizes that top appellate practitioners -- such as lawyer/bloggers Howard Bashman and Tom Goldstein, as well as former SG Ted Olson (whose recent summer party at his palatial estate yielded judicial sight-ations galore) -- do just fine for themselves. But let's face facts: appellate law might be interesting, intellectually challenging, and quite prestigious, but it is *not* where the money's at within the legal profession.)

10. While we're on the subject of Judge Roberts's finances, his most recent reported net worth is:

- (a) \$1 million to \$2 million
- (b) \$2 million to \$3 million
- (c) \$3 million to \$4 million
- (d) \$4 million to \$5 million
- (e) over \$5 million

Answer: (c), namely, \$3.8 million. If that strikes you as low relative to his income, recall that Judge Roberts hasn't been earning a million dollars a year for his entire 25-year career. Those fat Hogan & Hartson paychecks were diluted by several years of government-service penury. And people don't join the D.C. Circuit for the pay (\$171,800), baby -- they do it for the prestige!

Of course, Judge Roberts does enjoy significant investment income. His financial disclosure form reveals a healthy portfolio of well-diversified investments, consisting largely of blue-chip stocks and bonds (but also including a "1/8 Interest in Cottage, Knocklong, Limerick, Ireland").

Update: Give yourself a point if you chose item (e); a more recent financial disclosure form indicates that Judge Roberts's net worth has increased to almost \$5.3 million. For more details, click [here](#), [here](#), or [here](#).

11. During his time at Hogan & Hartson, Judge Roberts did a little lobbying work, in addition to his appellate litigation practice. Judge Roberts lobbied on behalf of which of the following organizations:

- (a) the NRA
- (b) the Western Peanut Growers Association
- (c) the Christian Coalition
- (d) the AARP
- (e) the American Council of Life Insurance

Answer: (b). Thus, as noted [here](#) by Sean Sirrine of [Objective Justice](#), John Roberts "worked for peanuts"! In the late 1990s, Judge Roberts lobbied on behalf of the Western Peanut Growers Association and the Panhandle Peanut Growers Association, in support of the Warehouse Storage Loan Program and the Peanut Price Support Program (thrilling stuff).

12. Judge Roberts's wife, [Jane Roberts](#), works as:

- (a) an attorney
- (b) a journalist
- (c) a physician (OB/GYN)
- (d) a homemaker
- (e) a management consultant for defense contractors

Answer: (a). An accomplished lawyer in her own right, [Jane Sullivan Roberts](#), 50, is a professional development partner at the distinguished firm of [Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman](#). Previously, she "practice[d] with the firm's communications and global sourcing groups, concentrating in representing clients in sophisticated transactions involving technology. She has extensive experience in representing clients in the buying and selling of space-related goods and services, including companies involved in the development of multi-billion dollar global and regional satellite systems."



As a partner at Pillsbury Winthrop, where profits per partner exceed \$750,000, Mrs. Roberts surely makes more than the \$171,800 that her husband earns as a D.C. Circuit judge (or what he would earn if confirmed as an Associate Justice, namely, \$194,200). She came from the Shaw Pittman side of the Pillsbury Winthrop/Shaw Pittman merger. The outfit she's wearing in the [picture](#) of her on the firm website (see left) -- a dark suit accessorized with a pale scarf -- seems like it would have been a better choice than the bright pink number she wore to last night's White House press conference.

Jane Sullivan Roberts -- a graduate of [Holy Cross College](#) (where she serves on the [Board of Trustees](#)), Melbourne University, and Brown -- has an impressive educational pedigree (even if it's not as jaw-droppingly fabulous as her husband's). She is known as a devout Catholic, and she [reportedly](#) served at one point as an executive of [Feminists for Life](#).

John and Jane Roberts were married on July 27, 1996. (Early wishes for a happy anniversary, Judge and Mrs. Roberts!) They have two adopted children, Josie and Jack (who is presumably named after his grandfather, and therefore John G. Roberts, III). The Roberts family lives in Chevy Chase, Maryland, in a large, elegant, white-brick colonial home (whose lawn Judge Roberts mows himself).

13. Judge Roberts enjoys which of the following activities in his spare time?

- (a) fox hunting
- (b) sailing
- (c) reading and golf
- (d) fiction writing
- (e) competitive bridge

Answer: (c). Response (a) is true of Judge Roberts's colleague, Chief Judge Douglas H. Ginsburg (whose other other hobby derailed his own Supreme Court candidacy). Response (b) is true of another conservative D.C. Circuit jurist, Judge Laurence H. Silberman, and response (d) would be appropriate for Judge David B. Sentelle. Response (e) applies to champion bridge player Judge Amalya L. Kearse (2d Cir.).

14. Judge Roberts belongs to all of the following organizations, except for:

- (a) the Federalist Society
- (b) the Republican National Lawyers Association
- (c) the Metropolitan Club
- (d) the Rotary Club
- (e) the Robert Trent Jones Golf Club

Answer: (a) or (d). Judge Roberts's status as a member of the RNLA reassures conservatives of his bona fides, despite his lack of a lengthy paper trail (which might otherwise suggest Souter-ish tendencies). Although he's not a member of the Federalist Society, members of the Society, including executive vice president Leonard Leo, vouched for Judge Roberts's conservatism. As for his membership in the Robert Trent Jones Golf Club, does anyone out there know his handicap?

(Update: The preceding paragraph reflects corrections. An earlier version of this quiz erroneously reported that Judge Roberts belongs to the Federalist Society. As noted here, in an article by Charles Lane for the Washington Post, this was incorrect.)

(Update of the update: Actually, Judge Roberts maintains that he does *not* belong to the Federalist Society, despite the Post article reporting that he was listed in 1997 as a member of the Society's Washington Lawyers Steering Committee. The situation remains a little confusing, however, so give yourself a point for either (a) or (d).)

So, how did you do? Giving yourself one point for each correct answer, measure yourself against the following scale:

- 14: one of the Elect (perfect score required)
- 12-13: feeder judge clerk
- 10-11: circuit court clerk
- 8-9: district court clerk
- 7-6: state court clerk
- 0-5: most foul of the Great Unwashed

As revealed by the above discussion, Judge John Roberts is a truly amazing individual. He's exceedingly accomplished, attractive, and affable, and he would be an excellent addition to the Supreme Court. Let's do everything we can to make his confirmation a reality!

July 20, 2005 at 02:52 AM in "The Elect": Supreme Court Clerks, Public Figures, Private Lives: Life Beyond the Courthouse, Quiz Show: Federal Judicial Trivia, Report from the Front Lines: Judicial Nomination Warfare, UTR News and Views | Permalink

Comments



Note that his middle name is Glover. Wonder if he's related to Revolutionary War General John Glover, the commander of the Potomac Crossing Marblehead Mariners. Any info out there?

Posted by: [Prince Revaissance](#) | [September 28, 2005 at 05:12 PM](#)



Note that his name is John Glover Roberts. I wonder if he is related to Revolutionary War General John Glover, of Marblehead Mariner fame. Any info out there?

Posted by: [John H. Miller](#) | [September 28, 2005 at 05:02 PM](#)



Visit the [Supreme Court Zeitgeist](#) if you're interested in a daily outlook on Supreme Court nominee [Judge John Roberts](#)...

<http://judgejohnroberts.com>

It's a mash-up site with popular bookmarks, recent blog entries, books & magazines, and other Supreme Court related links and content.

Posted by: [Supreme Court Zeitgeist](#) | [August 19, 2005 at 12:06 AM](#)



Did Judge Roberts work for the office of professional responsibility of the F.B.I.

Posted by: [James Smith](#) | [August 13, 2005 at 12:14 PM](#)



Great. Another Bob Jones University type authoritarian clone.

<http://www.bju.edu/prospective/expect/dress.html>

I weep for the slow death of America.

"President Bush said the job of the Supreme Court was extremely important because these are the people we choose to pick the next president of the United States." --Jay Leno

Posted by: [Disgusted](#) | [July 23, 2005 at 08:56 PM](#)



Was this marriage Roberts' FIRST?

Posted by: [naoma foreman](#) | [July 22, 2005 at 11:39 AM](#)



Judges who clerked on the court with the same Judge who they clerked for --- one more on the Ninth. Cynthia Holcomb Hall and Richard Chambers. Judge Hall was the first woman law-clerk in the federal judiciary. She later became a Ninth Circuit judge and Judge Chambers was still there as a judge some thirty or forty years later. . . .

Posted by: [Chief Justice Rehnquist](#) | [July 21, 2005 at 08:12 PM](#)



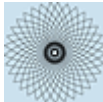
Sounds like he will be an excellent and respected jurist on the Supreme Court. In fact, I predict that, with his young age and vast scholarship, he will someday become Chief Justice.

Posted by: [Deborah White](#) | [July 20, 2005 at 09:26 PM](#)



A3G, Who will be Judge Roberts' law clerks for 2005-06?

Posted by: [Rick](#) | [July 20, 2005 at 02:56 PM](#)



Just FYI, Roberts was not first in his HLS class; i.e., he did not win the Fay Diploma in 1979. Thomas P. Storer (now deceased, but he was a partner at Goodwin Procter in Boston) graduated first in the 1979 HLS class.

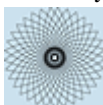
Posted by: [WLH](#) | [July 20, 2005 at 11:25 AM](#)



<http://quote.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=10000087&sid=aHMQMBotPxYo&refer=home>

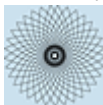
"Roberts is an avid golfer who hasn't been able to spend much time on the course since adopting a son and a daughter about five years ago, Bartolomucci said."

Posted by: [David](#) | [July 20, 2005 at 11:03 AM](#)



Question 9 is misleading. His 2003 earning included his pay-out when he left H&H for his partnership interest.

Posted by: [not a feeder](#) | [July 20, 2005 at 09:13 AM](#)



I don't think it really matters A3G, but I believe that Roberts entered Harvard as a sophomore.

Posted by: [Sean Serrine](#) | [July 20, 2005 at 05:33 AM](#)

The comments to this entry are closed.

TRANSCRIPT

President Bush and Judge Roberts

July 19, 2005

President Bush's announcement that he was nominating Judge John G. Roberts to the Supreme Court and Judge Roberts's comments, as recorded by The New York Times:

GEORGE W. BUSH : Good evening. One of the most consequential decisions a president makes is his appointment of a justice to the Supreme Court.

When a president chooses a justice, he's placing in human hands the authority and majesty of the law. The decisions of the Supreme Court affect the life of every American. And so a nominee to that court must be a person of superb credentials and the highest integrity. A person who will faithfully apply the Constitution and keep our founding promise of equal justice under law. I have found such a person in Judge John Roberts.

And tonight I'm honored to announce that I am nominating him to serve as associate justice of the Supreme Court. John Roberts currently serves on one of the most influential courts in the nation, the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

Before he was a respected judge he was known as one of the most distinguished and talented attorneys in America. John Roberts has devoted his entire professional life to the cause of justice, and is widely admired for his intellect, his sound judgment and personal decency.

Judge Roberts was born in Buffalo and grew up in Indiana. In high school he captained his football team. And he worked summers in a steel mill to help pay his way through college. He's an honors graduate of both Harvard College and Harvard Law School. In his career he has served as a law clerk to Justice William Rehnquist, as an associate counsel to President Ronald Reagan and as the principal deputy solicitor general in the Department of Justice.

In public service and in private practice he has argued 39 cases before the Supreme Court and earned a reputation as one of the best legal minds of his generation. Judge Roberts has earned the respect of people from both political parties.

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After he was nominated for the court of appeals in 2001, a bipartisan group of more than 150 lawyers sent a letter to the Senate Judiciary Committee. They wrote: "Although as individuals we reflect a wide spectrum of political party affiliation and ideology, we are united in our belief that John Roberts will be an outstanding federal court appeals judge and should be confirmed by the United States Senate."

The signers of this letter included a former counsel to a Republican president, a former counsel to two Democratic presidents and former high-ranking Justice Department officials of both parties.

My decision to nominate Judge Roberts to the Supreme Court came after a thorough and deliberative process. My staff and I consulted with more than 70 members of the United States Senate. I received good advice from both Republicans and Democrats. I appreciate the care they took. I am grateful for their advice.

I reviewed the credentials of many well qualified men and women. I met personally with a number of potential nominees. In my meetings with Judge Roberts I have been deeply impressed. He is a man of extraordinary accomplishment and ability. He has a good heart. He has the qualities Americans expect in a judge, experience, wisdom, fairness and civility.

He has profound respect for the rule of law and for the liberties guaranteed to every citizen. He will strictly apply the Constitution and laws not legislate from the bench. He is also a man of character who loves his country and his family. I am pleased that his wife, Jane, and his two beautiful children, Jack and Josie(SP?), could be with us tonight.

Judge Roberts has served his fellow citizens well. And he is prepared for even greater service. Under the Constitution, Judge Roberts now goes before the United States Senate for confirmation. I have recently spoken with leaders, Senator Frist and Senator Reid, and with senior members of the judiciary committee, Chairman Specter and Senator Leahy. These senators share my goal of a dignified confirmation process that is conducted with fairness and civility.

The appointments of the two most recent justices to the Supreme Court proved that this confirmation can be done in a timely manner. So I have full confidence that the Senate will rise to the occasion and act promptly on this nomination. It is important that the newest justice be on the bench when the Supreme Court reconvenes in October.

I believe that Democrats and Republicans alike will see the strong qualifications of this fine judge. As they did when they confirmed him by unanimous consent to the judicial seat he now holds.

I look forward to the Senate voting to confirm Judge John Roberts as the 109th justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

Judge Roberts, thank you for agreeing to serve, and congratulations.

JUDGE JOHN ROBERTS: Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you. Thank you very much. It is both an honor and very humbling to be nominated to serve on the Supreme Court.

Before I became a judge my law practice consisted largely of arguing cases before the court. That experience left me with a profound appreciation for the role of the court in our constitutional democracy, and a deep regard for the court as an institution.

I always got a lump in my throat whenever I walked up those marble steps to argue a case before the court. And I don't think it was just from the nerves.

I am very grateful for the confidence the president has shown in nominating me. And I look forward to the next step in the process before the United States Senate.

It's also appropriate for me to acknowledge that I would not be standing here today if it were not for the sacrifice and help of my parents, Jack and Rosemary Roberts, my three sisters, Cathy, Peggy and Barbara, and, of course, my wife, Jane. And I also want to acknowledge my children, my daughter, Josie, my son, Jack, who remind me every day why it's so important for us to work to preserve the institutions of our democracy.

Thank you again very much.

Underneath Their Robes

News, gossip, and colorful commentary about the federal judiciary.

July 27, 2005

Mrs. Jane Roberts to WaPo: "My kids look NICE!"

Finally, [Article III Groupie](#) some halfway decent gossip to pass along concerning Judge [John G. Roberts](#) of the [D.C. Circuit](#). Well, better late than never!



As A3G previously [noted](#), Judge Roberts's wife, [Jane Sullivan Roberts](#), is a highly accomplished lawyer. She is a partner at [Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman](#), one of the nation's largest and most successful law firms, where she oversees the firm's professional development and training program. (As noted [here](#), before Jane Roberts withdrew from the active practice of law to assume the role of professional development partner, she practiced in the "highly technical field of satellite procurement"; before that, she worked as a litigatrix.)

Now, with her husband under the microscope as a [Supreme Court](#) nominee, Mrs. Jane Roberts is rapidly becoming a celebrity in her own right. The media has [reported](#) on her childhood in the Bronx, her lack of pretense (she drove an old Volkswagen Bug around for years), the difficult time that she and her husband had adopting children, and the fact that no one has ever heard her curse. She is a devout Catholic, and [her work](#) for the pro-life organization [Feminists for Life](#) has made her a lightning rod for the left.

Earlier today, perhaps in an effort to impress the star-struck summer associates at Pillsbury Winthrop, Mrs. Roberts was trotted out at a firm luncheon to regale them with tales of life as the wife of a SCOTUS nominee. She was asked for her views of the press coverage of her husband's nomination, which she said she regarded as fair for the most part. She did express some annoyance, however, over [the Washington Post article that criticized her for dressing her children in 19th-century clothing](#).*

(Uh-oh -- A3G hopes that her own [unfavorable review](#) of Mrs. Roberts's pink suit was not similarly upsetting! It was intended as constructive criticism, from one conservative woman to another.)

At the lunch, Mrs. Roberts was also asked about how she responded when President Bush called her husband, told him that he was the nominee, and invited the Roberts family to dinner at the [White House](#) that evening. Mrs. Roberts said she focused on getting the children naps, so they wouldn't go into a "meltdown" at 9:00 p.m., and getting suitable clothes ready for them.

Smart thinking -- they don't pay Jane Roberts the Biglaw bucks for nothing! To her credit, Mrs. Roberts did succeed in preventing her kids from entering full meltdown mode. As millions of Americans surely noticed, daughter Josephine Roberts was exceptionally well-behaved. As for the Roberts' son Jack, sure, he was a tad hyperactive, maybe [verging on meltdown](#) -- but everybody loved him!

If Judge Roberts wins confirmation to the Court, it will be due not to his stellar credentials or his reasonable jurisprudence, but his absolutely adorable son. Four-year-old Jack Roberts hijacked a major news conference from a sitting president and a D.C. Circuit judge (a figure who is, in the world of UTR, more exalted than the president). Little Jack charmed the entire country with a delightful dance routine, which he performed just steps away from the presidential podium. **Fantastic!**

Article Three Groupie has lost count of how many people have accessed this blog by running Google searches like [jack roberts dancing](#) and [jack roberts video clip](#). Well, A3G's here to help. To access the video clip, click [here](#), scroll down the page, then click on the link in the lower left-hand corner that reads, "Young Jack Roberts steals the show."

You'll have to put up with a brief ad, as well as some unnecessary commentary and archival footage of other misbehaving political progeny (e.g., [Andrew Giuliani](#), the late [JFK Jr.](#) as a boy in Camelot). But you'll definitely get to see the Robertsian tyke busting his moves at the White House. **Enjoy!**

([Update](#): A dancing Jack Roberts video clip and photo are also available via [this post](#) (by controversial and opinionated hottie [Michelle Malkin](#)).)

* The article in question was written by WaPo fashion editrix [Robin Givhan](#), who [has been repeatedly accused](#) of allowing her political biases to color her style judgments. [This pic](#) of Givhan, clad in what appears to be A3G's shower curtain, puts one in mind of a certain saying involving glass houses and stones...

July 27, 2005 at 09:53 PM in [Public Figures, Private Lives: Life Beyond the Courthouse](#), [Report from the Front Lines: Judicial Nomination Warfare](#), [UTR News and Views](#) | [Permalink](#)

Comments



In the end the truth always comes out no matter how hard we try to keep a secret. Justice Roberts like many before and after him has an arraigned marriage. Many who look to reach a high public level must show their a normal American people. Few if any men get appointed that are single. Some people use the old money marries money and some use the picture perfect family as the poster. What was interesting is when Justice Roberts vacationing in Maine had his medical emergency and no wife or kids there but a very pretty young woman of color. The press was asked to stay away but one photo of the pretty woman was seen. Roberts insisted on returning to his vacation and was seen with the pretty woman of color on his boat. All along with the scary heart problem and even after no one saw or heard from Mrs. Roberts, as if nothing happen. One would love to think he didn't want to upset his wife and kids but it seems the lady friend was all he could think about. Mrs. Roberts is a busy woman and little to nothing is seen of their children. But like the Bush twins we learn what really happen with the Wealthy families children as they show off for the press.

Posted by: [Jackie Rawlings](#) | [April 16, 2011 at 01:11 AM](#)



i was looking through some old boxes snd found pictures of jane sullivan roberts and my nannys when they where younger i asked my nanny why she had them and she told me that jane was my nannys first cousin i dont want to give out my nannys name but if any one has any kind of information yhet you think might help me i would really be greatfull i want to find out more about my family please help me

help me

Posted by: [help me](#) | [September 04, 2009 at 06:35 PM](#)

The comments to this entry are closed.

CORRECTION TO THIS ARTICLE

A July 22 Style profile of Jane Roberts, the wife of John G. Roberts Jr., indicated that the Supreme Court nominee is antiabortion. He has not made his position on the issue public.

Nominee's Wife Is A Feminist After Her Own Heart

By Hanna Rosin
Washington Post Staff Writer
Friday, July 22, 2005

In 1995 Jane Sullivan walked into the tiny downtown office of Feminists for Life, a group she'd heard about from a friend. Serrin Foster was staffing the front desk and explained to her what they were about: The group was a kind of updated antiabortion group that concentrated more on "prevention than rhetoric." It was started in the '70s by some "hippie anti-nuke, anti-death penalty activists," including two women who had been kicked out of a National Organization for Women meeting for saying they were antiabortion.

Sullivan's response was the same as that of many women who discover the group after searching for someplace that could contain all their various beliefs: "I've found my home," Foster recalls her saying.

By the most extreme stereotypes of the political landscape, being a committed, self-described feminist and being strongly antiabortion are irreconcilable opposites. But throughout her life, Sullivan, who became the wife of Supreme Court nominee John G. Roberts, has lived in that small slice of the Venn diagram where these two circles overlap. She was not available for comment for this story.

She comes from an Irish Catholic family from the Bronx and went to an all-girl Catholic high school, then Holy Cross College, and has remained very devout. At the same time, she has lived a modern feminist adventurer's life, traveling the world in her twenties, collecting degrees in math and education, becoming a partner at a competitive D.C. law firm, starting her own family in her forties.

Those scouring the writings of John G. Roberts to assess how he would vote on future Supreme Court cases involving abortion will not find much clarity from his wife's record. Like him, she seems unequivocally antiabortion in her personal views, but from there she does not follow the usual path.

At the moment she found Feminists for Life, they were just gearing up for a transformation, and Roberts instantly joined the board and gave the group legal advice. In their efforts to address the causes of abortion, they banded with traditional feminist groups to lobby for the Violence Against Women Act and against certain welfare cuts.

"We found ourselves at the Heritage Foundation in the morning and the ACLU in the afternoon," recalls Foster, naming two groups that wouldn't be caught dead on the same conference call together.

This is the mental agility legal colleagues of all political stripes admire in Roberts, just as they do in her husband.

"In her politics and her faith she has an enviable clarity, and she always has," says Tina Kearns, a fellow partner at Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman. "But she is not a pro-life caricature. She would be more defined by how highly intelligent she is and how interested she is in other views."

"She got out of the neighborhood," is how her younger brother, John, used to describe Jane, who was the oldest of four. They grew up in an Italian and Irish Catholic neighborhood, where Jane and sister Mary played stickball and basketball in the street. Her father was a mechanic in the postal service and her mother was a medical secretary. Even now a family motto is "you can always depend on Janey," says Mary Sullivan-Torre.

John never finished high school and stayed in New York, as did the rest of her family. Yet he and his sister remained close. When recently he needed a lawyer for a business matter, she found him one and stayed on top of

the smallest details of the case. When he was killed in a car accident in February, a grieving Jane made the funeral arrangements and gave what many attendees describe as a warm and funny eulogy, calling her brother a "man of extremes," one with a heavy Bronx accent and terrible grammar but one of the smartest and bravest people she knew.

In her own life Roberts, now 50, traveled far from her Bronx roots. At Holy Cross, in Massachusetts, she was part of its first freshman class of women. Some had opposed the decision to integrate, so the women who chose to go there were seen as pathbreakers, pioneers walking into sometimes uncomfortable territory.

"Our class was idealized, mythologized as an amazing class of strong forthright women, probably even to an exaggerated degree," recalls Kim McElaney, a friend of "Janey's." By their senior year, a woman was editor of the school newspaper and a feminist club had formed.

Jane Sullivan was a math major known for being thoughtful and close to her professors. Like many of the students, she attended chapel regularly, went on religious retreats and did service work, but even so, she was on the devout end of the spectrum.

"She was known for her authenticity," says McElaney. "She was not one of those people who live one wild party life Saturday and another on Sunday."

Her fun was clean: She organized swing dances for her dorm and liked to ice skate. To this day, none of her friends or colleagues who were interviewed claims to have heard her curse.

After college she won a scholarship from the Rotary Foundation to study at the University of Melbourne in Australia, where she earned a degree in education. Then she went to Brown University, where she got a degree in math, and finally to Georgetown University Law School.

By the time she came to the firm where she works now -- after clerking for Judge James M. Sprouse in the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit and working at another law firm, Piper Rudnick Gray Cary -- she had a deliberateness and maturity that stood out among the junior associates, says Kearns. She was ambitious but unpretentious, driving the same Volkswagen Bug for years.

Sullivan began as a litigator, then moved on to the highly technical field of satellite procurement. In 1996 she married John Roberts, whom she had met once years earlier through mutual friends. (One of the groomsmen was Michael Luttig, an appeals court judge who was also on the short list for the Supreme Court nomination.) By then she was 42, and Catholic doctrine prohibits most forms of fertility treatment. She and her husband went through an "uncertain difficult period where she wanted badly to have children," says Kearns.

For a long time the adoption process didn't work out, but Roberts never lost hope, Kearns says. Five years ago they adopted a daughter, Josephine, and in less than a year a son, John, and Roberts was suddenly a 45-year-old mother of two infants.

Two years ago she scaled down -- she stopped practicing law and was tapped to start the firm's in-house training and evaluation program. She's still on the boards of Holy Cross College and the John Carroll Society, a Catholic lay group. She and her family live in Chevy Chase and her children attend Episcopal Day School.

Her kids found it strange to see their dad's face on TV in a little box, she told colleagues before the nomination was announced. This week she has been too busy to go to the office.

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