

Donald B. Ayer

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Donald Belton Ayer (born April 30, 1949^[1]) was the United States Deputy Attorney General from 1989 to May 1990, under Republican President George H.W. Bush.

Early life and career

Ayer graduated from Stanford University with a Bachelor of Arts in History in 1971, with great distinction. He then went to Harvard University, and graduated from there with a Master of Arts in American History in 1973, and received his J.D. from Harvard Law School in 1975.^[2] He then served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of California from 1977-1980.

He was nominated by President Reagan to be the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of California in 1981, and served from 1981-1986. He served as Principal Deputy Solicitor General of the United States from 1986-1988, and as Deputy Attorney General from 1989 until May 1990, when he was succeeded by William Barr.^[3]

He became a lawyer in private practice after leaving government service, and is currently a partner at the prestigious law firm Jones Day.^[2]

Personal life

Ayer has a wife, Anne, and two children.

References

- "Donald Ayer Birth Records". *MooseRoots.com*. Retrieved June 9, 2015.
- "Jones Day – Donald B. Ayer". *Jones Day*. Retrieved June 9, 2015.
- "Donald B. Ayer". *FindLaw*. Retrieved June 9, 2015.

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Donald B. Ayer	
United States Deputy Attorney General	
In office	
1989 – May 1990	
President	Ronald Reagan
Preceded by	Harold G. Christensen
Succeeded by	William P. Barr
United States Attorney for the Eastern District of California	
In office	
1981–1986	
Personal details	
Born	April 30, 1949 <div>San Mateo, California</div>
Political party	Independent
Spouse(s)	Anne Norton
Alma mater	Stanford University <div>Harvard University</div>
Religion	Episcopalian

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Donald B. Ayer

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Mr. Ayer focuses on constitutional, statutory, and regulatory litigation in trial and appellate courts, and in appellate litigation. His experience covers subject areas ranging from criminal appeals, business torts, and to a wide range of constitutional and technical statutory and regulatory issues. He is Jones Day's most experienced Supreme Court lawyer, with 17 arguments before the Court. Mr. Ayer has argued more than 60 other appeals, and has been lead counsel in 20 federal court jury trials. For the past four years, he has taught a course in Supreme Court advocacy at Georgetown University Law Center.

Prior to his association with Jones Day, he served as the Deputy Attorney General of the United States, as the Principal Deputy Solicitor General, and also as the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of California. Before that he clerked for Judge Malcolm Wi key of the D.C. Circuit, and then-Justice William Rehnquist.

He has served as president of the Edward Coke Appellate Inn of Court in Washington, DC, and was recently named president-elect of the American Academy of Trial Lawyers. He is listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* (appellate practice), *Who's Who in America*, and *Who's Who in the World*. Mr. Ayer is a member of the ALI, a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation, and serves on the advisory boards of the Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia, the National Parks Conservation Association, the NYU Institute of Judicial Administration, the Georgetown Law School Supreme Court Institute, and the Publications Committee of the Supreme Court Historical Society. He is admitted to practice in the District of Columbia.

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Donald B. Ayer (Don)

Of Counsel



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EDUCATION

Harvard University (J.D. 1975; Harvard Law Review, Articles Editor; M.A. in History 1973); Stanford University (B.A. in History with great distinction 1971; Phi Beta Kappa)

BAR ADMISSIONS

District of Columbia

CLERKSHIPS

Justice William H. Rehnquist, U.S. Supreme Court (1976 Term); Judge Malcolm R. Wilkey, U.S. Court of Appeals, District of Columbia Circuit (1975 Term)

GOVERNMENT SERVICE

Deputy Attorney General, U.S. DOJ (1989-1990); Principal Deputy Solicitor General, U.S. DOJ (1986-1988); U.S. Attorney, E.D. California (1981-1986); Assistant U.S. Attorney, N.D. California (1977-1979)

Profile

Donald Ayer is Jones Day's most experienced Supreme Court lawyer, with 19 arguments before the Court and numerous arguments in other appellate courts. His experience covers subject areas ranging from criminal appeals to business torts to a wide range of constitutional and technical statutory and regulatory issues. He also has been lead counsel in 20 federal court jury trials.

After graduating from Stanford University and Harvard Law School, he clerked for Judge Malcolm R. Wilkey of the D.C. Circuit and for Justice William H. Rehnquist. Before entering private practice in 1990, Don served for 10 years in the United States Department of Justice as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in San Francisco, as United States Attorney in Sacramento, as Principal Deputy Solicitor General under Solicitor General Charles Fried, and as Deputy Attorney General. He also has served as president of the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers and of the Edward Coke Appellate Inn of Court and currently teaches a course in Supreme Court Advocacy at Georgetown University Law Center and Duke University Law School.

Don is listed in *Best Lawyers in America* (appellate practice), *Who's Who in America*, *Who's Who in the World*, *Chambers USA* (National Appellate), and *D C Magazine's* "Top 100 Lawyers in Washington, D.C." He is a member of the ALI, a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation, and chairman of the Publications Committee of the Supreme Court Historical Society.

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HONORS & DISTINCTIONS

Adjunct Professor, Georgetown Law School, Supreme Court Litigation (2006-present)

Senior Lecturer, Duke Law School, Supreme Court Litigation (2008-present)

Adjunct Professor, NYU Law School (2007-2009)

President, American Academy of Appellate Lawyers (2010-2011)

President, Edward Coke Appellate Inn of Court (2006-2007)

"Top 100 Washington D.C. Super Lawyers" (2009-2013)

"Washington's Top Lawyers — Supreme Court," *Washingtonian* magazine (2009-2011)

Appellate Lawyer of the Week, *National Law Journal* (August 11, 2010)

Donald B. Ayer

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Washington, DC 20001

Courses

- Supreme Court Litigation Seminar

Partner, Jones Day, Adjunct Professor of Law

A.B., Stanford; M.A., J.D., Harvard

Donald B. Ayer is a Partner in the Washington, D.C. office of Jones Day and is the firm's most experienced Supreme Court lawyer, with 19 arguments before the Court. He has argued more than 60 other appeals. His experience covers subject areas ranging from criminal appeals to business torts to a wide range of constitutional and technical statutory and regulatory issues. He also has been lead counsel in 20 federal court jury trials.

Professor Ayer previously served as the Deputy Attorney General and Principal Deputy Solicitor General of the United States and as the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of California. He is now immediate past President of the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers, and has served as president of the Edward Coke Appellate Inn of Court in Washington, D.C. Professor Ayer currently teaches a course in Supreme Court Advocacy at Georgetown University Law Center and Duke University Law School.

Professor Ayer is listed in The Best Lawyers in America (appellate practice), Who's Who in America, Who's Who in the World, Chambers USA (National Appellate), and Washingtonian Magazine's Best Lawyers in Washington (Supreme Court). He is a member of the ALI, a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation, and serves on the advisory boards of the NYU Institute of Judicial Administration, the Georgetown Law Supreme Court Institute, the State and Local Legal Center, and the Publications Committee of the Supreme Court Historical Society.

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