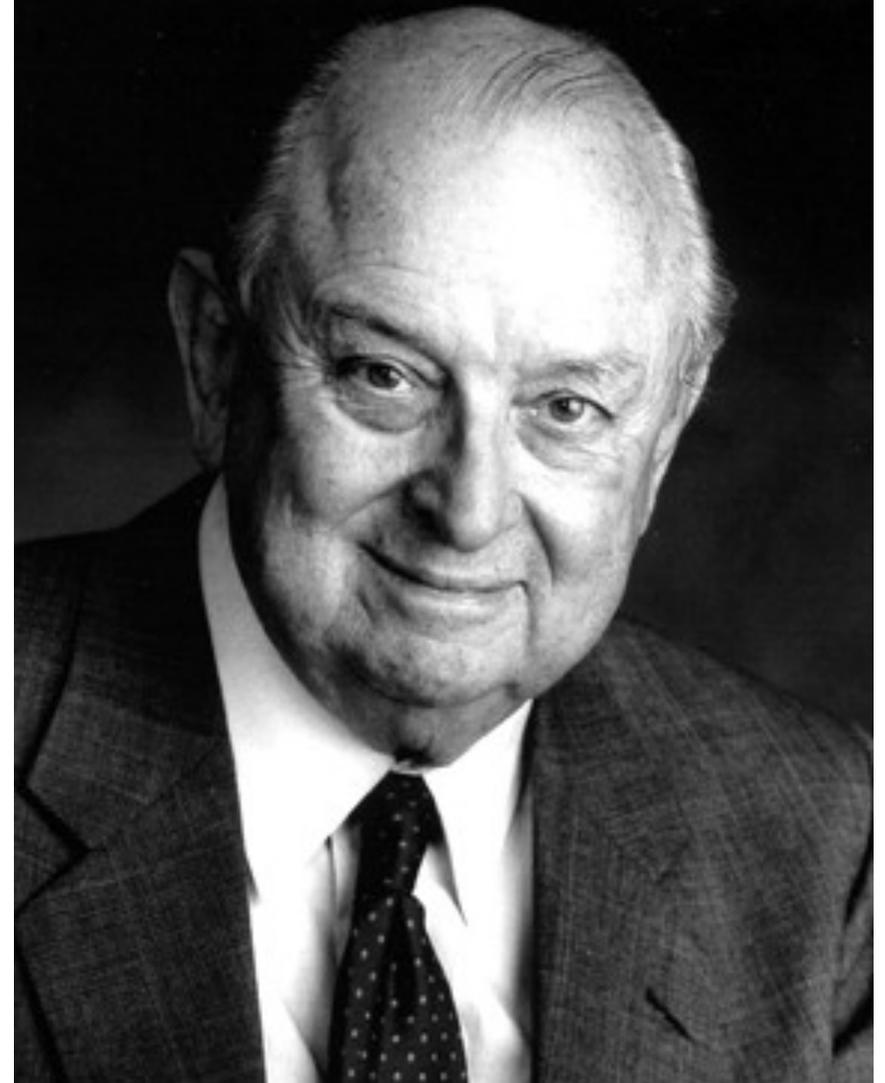


# Joe R. Greenhill

1914 — 2011

Justice, Supreme Court of Texas, 1957-1972

Chief Justice, 1972-1982



*'The modern Texas judiciary was born in large part from Joe Greenhill's great efforts. I owe him, every Texas judge owes him and the people of Texas owe him more than mere gratitude can measure.'*



**Chief Justice Wallace B. Jefferson**

**Joe R. Greenhill** spent 25 years and 21 days as a justice on the Texas Supreme Court, from 1957 through 1982, the last 10 years as chief justice. When he died February 11, 2011, he left a legacy as the longest-serving justice in Texas history and a decided mark on Texas jurisprudence, by transforming negligence law in Texas, by creating a framework for alternative dispute resolution and by engineering jurisdictional changes for the state's courts of appeals that relieved an overburdened Court of Criminal Appeals in a state that had long grown beyond its 1890s court system.

Born in Houston, he earned business and law degrees at the University of Texas, where he was named to Phi Beta Kappa as an undergraduate and graduated at the top of his law-school class. UT honored him as a distinguished alumnus of both the business and law schools and Southern Methodist University awarded him an honorary doctor of laws.

He was the first briefing attorney to become a justice and the only briefing attorney to serve twice as a law clerk when he returned to the Court after service in the U.S. Navy in World War II. He then became first assistant Texas attorney general. In that role he argued *Sweatt v. Painter* before the U.S. Supreme Court, the challenge to integrate UT Law School.

Greenhill helped found the Austin law firm now known as Graves Dougherty Heron & Moody in 1950 and left it when he joined the Court, appointed by his former boss as attorney general, Price Daniel, then Texas governor.

As chief justice, Greenhill considered his proudest accomplishments to be his success in passing a constitutional amendment to give Texas' 14 intermediate appellate courts criminal jurisdiction and in changing restrictive laws that discouraged arbitration and mediation to resolve legal disputes in Texas.

His survivors include his wife, Martha, whom he married in 1940 in Tyler, and sons, Joe R. Greenhill Jr. of Austin and Bill Greenhill of Fort Worth.

## *In Memoriam*

### **CHIEF JUSTICE JOE R. GREENHILL**

***July 14, 1914 – February 11, 2011***

***2 p.m.***

***Monday, June 13, 2011***

***Courtroom***

***Supreme Court of Texas***

***Supreme Court Convenes***  
**Chief Justice Wallace B. Jefferson**

#### ***Invocation***

**The Reverend David A. Boyd**

RECTOR, ST. DAVID'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, AUSTIN

#### ***Tribute***

**Senior Judge Thomas M. Reavley**

U.S. COURT OF APPEALS, FIFTH CIRCUIT

JUSTICE, TEXAS SUPREME COURT, 1968-1977

#### ***Tribute***

**Judge Andrew S. Hanen**

U.S. DISTRICT COURT, SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

LAW CLERK TO CHIEF JUSTICE GREENHILL, 1978-1979

***Response from the Greenhill Family***

**Joe R. Greenhill Jr.**

***Response from the Court***

**Chief Justice Jefferson**

***Recognition of Special Guests***

**Justice Nathan L. Hecht**

#### ***Benediction***

**The Reverend Boyd**

#### ***Adjournment***