

CIVILITY

2011-2012 CAMPUS THEME

P R E S E N T S

JUDGE JOHN E. JONES III



**Judge
John E.
Jones III**

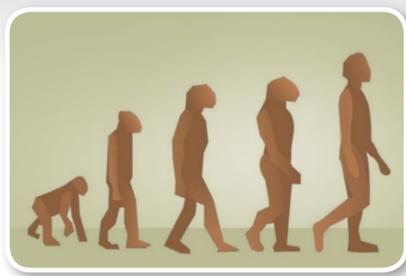
JUDGE JOHN E. JONES III is the 21st judge to sit in the Middle District of Pennsylvania. Judge Jones was appointed to his current position by President George W. Bush in February 2002, and was unanimously confirmed by the United States Senate.

Judge Jones is a graduate of the Mercersburg Academy, Dickinson College, and The Dickinson School of Law of The Pennsylvania State University. In 2006 Judge Jones received the Outstanding Alumni Award from the Dickinson School of Law, as well as an honorary doctorate in law and public policy from Dickinson College.

In 2005, he presided over the landmark case of *Kitzmiller v. Dover School District*, after which he held that it was unconstitutional to teach intelligent design within a public school science curriculum. In 2007 Judge Jones and the *Kitzmiller* case were featured in the two-hour Nova special "Judgment Day: Intelligent Design on Trial," televised nationally by PBS.

In May, 2006 Judge Jones was named by Time Magazine as one of its Time 100, the one hundred most influential people in the world. He has also received a Rave Award for Policy from Wired Magazine.

Judge Jones resides in Pottsville, Pennsylvania with his wife Beth Ann and their two children.



From Scopes to Kitzmiller—

Civility and Incivility at the Intersection of Science, Religion, and the Law

History of the national debate in America over the teaching of evolution in public schools, beginning with the watershed case of *Tennessee v. John Scopes* in 1925 has been tumultuous. In

this lecture, US District Judge Jones will trade this history and discuss his central role in the controversy stemming from the case over which he presided in 2006, *Kitzmiller v. Dover*, described as *Scopes II* by some legal commentators, that dealt with an attempt to teach an alternative to evolution in a public school science class in Pennsylvania. In the eighty years between these two cases a constant and at times uncivil public discourse has occurred over what constitutes good science versus what is religious in nature, as well as the proper interpretation of the First Amendment's Establishment Clause. Judge Jones will describe some of the leading personalities in this debate, the development of the law over nearly nine decades, and explain why this controversy continues to be such a compelling flash point nationally.

Thursday, October 13, 2011 • 7 pm

Music Recital Hall, Music Building, SOU Campus



Judicial Opinions and Civil Discourse:

Is it Judicial Activism or Simply a Decision I Don't Like?

In 2006 Judge John Jones presided over a case that garnered international focus, *Kitzmiller v. Dover*, in which he ruled that it

was unconstitutional to teach intelligent design as an alternative to evolution in a ninth grade science class at a public school in Pennsylvania. Given Judge Jones' background as a Republican, many leading pundits in the media expected a different ruling. As a result, the sometimes savage treatment Judge Jones received from several conservative commentators after his decision informed him greatly about the misconceptions the public harbors about the judiciary in America today. Judge Jones will discuss how judges actually decide cases, including the role of legal precedent, and why the Framers of our Constitution designed the Third Branch of government as they did. He will also touch on the need for teaching civics more effectively in schools. In his opinion, inadequate civics classes have led to a poorly informed citizenry who are whipsawed by commentators bent on creating controversy rather than engaging in rational discourse.

Friday, October 14, 2011 • 4 pm

Rogue River Room, Stevenson Union, SOU Campus

LECTURES ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



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