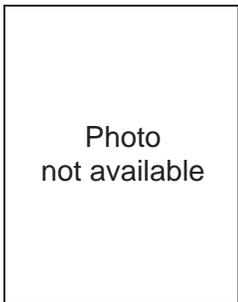


# **FORMER CLERKS OF COURT**



**JOHN HOLLINGSWORTH FINKS, Clerk of Court 1879-1906**

John Hollingsworth Finks was appointed by Judge Andrew P. McCormick as the first United States District Clerk for the Northern District of Texas in 1879. Prior to being appointed clerk, Mr. Finks worked as an Associated Press representative, newspaper correspondent for the *Galveston News*, and editorial writer for a number of papers throughout the Southwest. Mr. Finks also served as a United States commissioner and was successful in several business enterprises, including oil field development in Corsicana and Beaumont.



**LOUIS C. MAYNARD, Clerk of Court 1906-1925**

Louis C. Maynard was appointed United States District Clerk by Judge Edward R. Meek on May 18, 1906. Mr. Maynard followed John McBain who had been appointed to the position on May 6, 1906, but had to resign because business interests made it impracticable for him to serve as clerk.

Mr. Maynard was a graduate of Harvard University School of Law. He was a member of the law firm of Hancock & Maynard at the time of his appointment.

Mr. Maynard was married to the former Margaret Montgomery. He died while in office on February 7, 1925, in Dallas at the age of 53.



**GEORGE W. PARKER, Clerk of Court 1925-1956**

George W. Parker was appointed United States District Clerk by the court on February 11, 1925. He served thirty-one years, longer than any other district clerk in the Northern District.

Prior to his appointment, Mr. Parker had served in many roles in the federal judiciary, including United States commissioner at Fort Worth. Mr. Parker observed his 61st year as a federal employee when he retired on October 31, 1956. At that time he was 93 years old, the oldest district clerk in the nation.

Mr. Parker died on December 27, 1957, in Fort Worth at the age of 94. He had four children.



**JOHN A. LOWTHER, Clerk of Court 1956-1965**

John A. Lowther was appointed United States District Clerk by the court on November 1, 1956. Mr. Lowther was a graduate of Texas Christian University and the University of Texas School of Law. During World War II, he was a commissioned officer in the Judge Advocate General's Corps at the Pentagon. Mr. Lowther practiced in a private law firm in Fort Worth until 1954. He then served as an assistant United States attorney in Fort Worth until his appointment as clerk. Mr. Lowther was a member of the State Bar of Texas, Tarrant County Bar Association, and Dallas Bar Association.

Mr. Lowther was married to the former Elberta Pipkin, and they had one son and one daughter. Mr. Lowther died while in office on January 31, 1965, in Dallas at the age of 54.



**RAMELLE HAMILTON, Clerk of Court 1965-1967**

Ramelle Hamilton was sworn in as United States District Clerk on February 11, 1965. Ms. Hamilton was only the eighth female to be appointed as a district clerk in the country and the first in the Northern District of Texas. She studied liberal arts in the United States and Europe. At the time of her appointment, she had been a federal employee since 1922 and had served as a courtroom deputy clerk to both Judge Atwell and Judge Estes. She served as chief deputy clerk for the district from July 1964 until her appointment as clerk.

Ms. Hamilton was unmarried and had no children. She died while in office on



**BAILEY F. RANKIN, Clerk of Court 1967-1971**

Bailey Rankin was appointed United States District Clerk by the court on March 27, 1967. Mr. Rankin was a graduate of Southern Methodist University and Southern Methodist University School of Law. Following law school, Mr. Rankin had a private law practice in Dallas, followed by five years of service with the Small Business Administration. He then served as an assistant United States attorney in Dallas from 1965 to 1967. Mr. Rankin resigned as clerk in January 1971, when he was appointed to a newly created United States magistrate position at Dallas.

Mr. Rankin was a member of the State Bar of Texas and a member and former president of the Federal Bar Association.

He and his first wife, the former Lennadale Boyd, had two sons. He later married Geneva Allen, and they had one daughter. Mr. Rankin died on May 30, 2002, in Fremont, California.



**JOSEPH MCELROY, JR., Clerk of Court, 1971-1983**

Joseph McElroy was appointed United States District Clerk by the court on January 20, 1971. Mr. McElroy attended Texas A&M University and then enlisted in the United States Navy where he spent more than two years as a fighter pilot. Following his military service, Mr. McElroy earned a law degree from Southern Methodist University School of Law in 1958. He became a law clerk for Judge Joe Estes immediately following law school. He then served as an assistant United States attorney in Dallas. He was assistant regional counsel for the General Services Administration in Fort Worth when he was appointed clerk.

Mr. McElroy married the former Lillian Valek. They had eight sons and four daughters. Mr. McElroy died on February 14, 1986, in Arlington at the age of 61.



**NANCY HALL DOHERTY, Clerk of Court 1983-2000**

Nancy Doherty was appointed United States District Clerk by the court on January 22, 1983. Ms. Doherty was a graduate of Texas Christian University (B.A. 1965). Prior to her appointment as clerk, Ms. Doherty was director of administrative services for the Los Angeles Superior Court and prior to that she was assistant executive officer for the Alameda Superior Court in Oakland. She also worked in court management positions in Gulfport, Mississippi, and Houston, Texas.

Ms. Doherty was a fellow of the Institute for Court Management and served as a faculty member for the Federal Judicial Center and the Administrative Office of the United States Courts. She served on numerous judiciary-related committees during her career. She chaired the Dallas/Fort Worth Federal Executive Board from 1989-1990, served on the board of directors for Leadership Dallas Alumni Association, and was a member of Executive Women of Dallas, the Federal Court Clerks Association, National Center for State Courts, Dallas Women's Foundation, and TCU Dallas Regional Council.

Ms. Doherty married Mike Hall, and they had one daughter. She later married Ralph Doherty. Ms. Doherty died while in office on June 16, 2000, in Dallas at the age of 56.