



1947

Hon. Charles J. Vogel - A Biographical Sketch

Marion Jane Leslie

Follow this and additional works at: <https://commons.und.edu/ndlr>



Part of the [Law Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Leslie, Marion Jane (1947) "Hon. Charles J. Vogel - A Biographical Sketch," *North Dakota Law Review*. Vol. 23 : No. 2 , Article 3.

Available at: <https://commons.und.edu/ndlr/vol23/iss2/3>

This Note is brought to you for free and open access by the School of Law at UND Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in North Dakota Law Review by an authorized editor of UND Scholarly Commons. For more information, please contact und.common@library.und.edu.

HON. CHARLES J. VOGEL

A Biographical Sketch

By MARION JANE LESLIE

Mr. Vogel was married August 22, 1925 to Miss Fern Nesbitt of Detroit Lakes, Minnesota. They have two children, Janet, who was born at Fargo, North Dakota on December 12, 1928 and Jon born at Fargo, North Dakota on January 1, 1932.

In July, 1941 Charles J. Vogel was nominated United States Judge for the State of North Dakota by President Franklin D. Roosevelt and his appointment was later confirmed by the United States Senate. On November 6, 1941, in an induction, the first of its kind ever held, he took oath of office as United States District Judge. He is the fourth man to serve in such position for the State of North Dakota, being preceded by Judge Alfred Delavan Thomas, Judge Charles F. Amidon and Judge Andrew Miller.

The appointment of Judge Vogel as United States District Judge was received favorably by the bar in North Dakota and by the general public for he has the respect and confidence of the lawyers and of the people.

Judge Vogel did not come to his present position through a rose-strewn path. He had learned much of human relations through the necessity of making his own way from early boyhood. This struggle for an education has given him the spirit of personal humility and sincerity which is best shown in his own words when he took the oath of office as United States District Judge.

"I also express the hope that I may never forget that judges are, after all, merely men and that by the mere transition from lawyer to judge no wisdom is thereby conferred. I hope that at the end of my years of service, I shall find within me the same spirit of personal humility that I today possess. I hope that I may by my future acts justify the confidence that has today been placed in me. God willing, I will do my best."

North Dakota has been fortunate in the high caliber and integrity of the Judges of the United States District Court for this district and this high standing has been continued in the appointment of Charles J. Vogel as United States District Judge for the district of North Dakota. He is a diligent worker with standards of great industry, painstaking care, and mastery of the law of each case dealt with. His integrity of character and zeal for the welfare of his fellowman have led to his dispensing of justice.

Charles J. Vogel was born on a farm in Star Lake Township, Otter Tail County, Minnesota, on September 20, 1898, where his father, Philip F. Vogel farmed for many years. His parents, American born, were of German-Norwegian descent. When Charles Vogel was about eleven years of age the family moved to Perham, Minnesota, where his father operated the Perham Monument Works. Part of his summer vacations were spent assisting his father in the carving of tombstones.

Judge Vogel attended rural grade school in Star Lake Township until his father moved to Perham. Here he finished elementary school and in 1917 graduated from the Perham High School. In the fall of 1917 he registered at Huron College, Huron, South Dakota, as a fresh-

man and completed that year of instruction. It was always necessary for him to earn a portion of the money necessary for his education, both in high school and in college, and in the summer of 1918 he went to Fargo, North Dakota, to obtain work in order to continue his college education. While looking for employment in Fargo he chanced to pass a recruiting station, and feeling it was his duty to serve his country in time of war he enlisted in the United States Army. He was then only 19 years of age. He served in the army for about a year and was discharged at Camp Meade, Md., with the rank of sergeant in the tank corps.

After he was discharged from the army he entered the University of Minnesota and in 1923 he received the degree of Bachelor of Laws from that institution, and the same year he was admitted to practice law in the State of Minnesota.

After Mr. Vogel was admitted to practice in Minnesota he was asked to go to Minot, North Dakota, to join the firm of Lewis and Bock, while John Lewis, the active member of the firm, toured Europe. Mr. Vogel accepted this offer. During his first six months in this office he practiced by courtesy of the North Dakota State Bar Board until examination in January, 1924, when he was formally admitted to the practice of law in North Dakota.

In April of 1924 Judge Andrew Miller appointed Charles Vogel referee in bankruptcy in Minot, North Dakota. He held that position until January, 1925.

While in Minot, Mr. Vogel had agreed to handle the legal business in North Dakota for the Fidelity and Casualty Company. In January, 1925 he moved to Fargo, North Dakota, to open his own law office, in the Merchants National Bank Building, to handle this work together with other private practice of law.

In 1934 Charles Vogel formed a partnership with his brother, Phil Vogel, and this firm continued until January, 1938 when he joined the law firm of Thorp & Wattam, the firm name becoming, Thorp, Wattam & Vogel. He remained with this firm until his appointment as Federal Judge, and during this time served as assistant city attorney of Fargo. During his practice of law he maintained standards of scrupulous regard for the profession's honor and good repute and a craftsmanship which forbade doing less than one's best in any task.

LAW SCHOOL NEWS

By O. H. THORMODSGARD*

*Dean of the School of Law, University of North Dakota.

One hundred and twenty-one students enrolled in law this fall. During the semester seventeen dropped out either to accept positions in gainful occupation or to reenlist in the armed forces. There were some who cancelled their enrollment and enrolled in other departments or schools. During the present semester, there are one hundred sixteen students enrolled. There are sixty-five, first year law students; thirty, second-year law students; and twenty-one, third-year law students. Upon successful completion of the required work, sixteen will secure their law degrees in June and the remaining five, third-year students will graduate in August.