

Justice Harry A. Blackmun

The Annotated Bobblehead



A Minnesota Twins fan (thus the colors of his cap), Justice Blackmun referred to himself as “old number three” because he was President Richard Nixon’s third choice – after Judges Clement Haynsworth and Harrold Carswell, both of whom were rejected by the Senate – to replace Justice Abe Fortas on the Supreme Court.

No one in the history of the Supreme Court is more thoroughly associated with a single decision than is Justice Blackmun with *Roe v. Wade*, 410 U.S. 113 (1973).

In a not-so-boring tax case, Justice Blackmun spoke for the Court in *Portland Golf Club v. CIR*, 497 U.S. 154 (1990), holding that under I.R.C. § 512, “any losses incurred as a result of petitioner’s nonmember sales may be offset against its investment income only if the nonmember sales were undertaken with an intent to profit.”

Justice Blackmun’s opinion in the Court’s most recent baseball antitrust case, *Flood v. Kuhn*, 407 U.S. 258 (1972), famously features a list of “many names, celebrated for one reason or another, that have sparked the diamond and its environs.” When confronted with his failure to include New York Giants great Mel Ott on the list, Blackmun reportedly exclaimed, “I will never forgive myself!” To commemorate the oversight, some of his clerks gave him a genuine Louisville Slugger* “Mel Ott” bat (caricatured above) accompanied by an engraved reminder (pictured at right).

The packaging for the Justice Blackmun doll features, among other things, a clerk-made jurisprudential trading card –

“Bats: Left
Throws: Left
(Except in 4th[]
Amendment Cases)”

