

# Washington Law Review

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Volume 46 | Number 1

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10-1-1970

## Introduction

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### Recommended Citation

Earl R. McGimpsey, *Introduction*, 46 Wash. L. Rev. 1 (1970).

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## INTRODUCTION

Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. left a substantial portion of his estate to the United States at his death in 1935. By Act of Congress, a Permanent Committee was designated to manage the disposition of these funds. Among other projects, the Permanent Committee sponsors the *Oliver Wendell Holmes Devise Lectures*, presented at the university of its designation, by a distinguished legal scholar chosen by the law faculty of that university in conjunction with the Permanent Committee. This year the University of Washington School of Law was selected and the faculty invited Professor Charles L. Black, Jr. of the Yale Law faculty to deliver the lectures.<sup>1</sup> Professor Black chose as his subject, "The Unfinished Business of the Warren Court."

The period of the Warren Court is of a significance equalled in history only by that of the Marshall Court. Professor Black feels that the Warren Court has staked out a large claim for American citizenship, nobly defined its structure, and provided rudiments for its implementation. Now we are at a cross-roads in constitutional law. We can reaffirm and further delineate the rights announced or we can restrict them by redefining their parameters. The demands for law and order and for balance on the Court, as well as executive and legislative pressure, will surely test the direction the Court will take in implementing the citizenship secured to us in the Warren years.

In these lectures Professor Black provides perspective on the work of the Warren Court, drawing parallels to the history of the Marshall Court, and pointing to the need for continuing and vital advocacy to fulfill the assertion laid for out citizenship, particularly in securing these rights to our black citizens. In his final lecture, he examines a method of constitutional construction which may provide the means for future lawyers and courts to accomplish the business still at hand.

*Earl R. McGimpsey\**

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1. The lectures were presented at the University of Washington School of Law (April 27-29, 1970). They are published in the same form in which they were delivered.