

DAVIS FONVILLE STAKELY

Associate Justice - 1943-1945 and 1946-1962

BORN: January 27, 1883; Augusta, Georgia
DIED: January 13, 1964; Montgomery, Alabama

Davis Fonville Stakely attended Mercer College in Macon, Georgia, earning a bachelor of arts degree in 1903 and a law degree in 1904. During his college career he established a reputation as not only an excellent student but also an outstanding athlete in baseball, track, tennis, and football.

Following his graduation from Mercer, Stakely taught Latin and Greek and coached the football team at Howard College in Birmingham for four years. In 1908 he moved to Montgomery to begin practicing law.

Stakely's twenty-year career on the Alabama Supreme Court began in 1943, when Governor Chauncey Sparks appointed him temporary acting associate justice to fill the seat of Thomas S. Lawson, who was on leave from the court for active military duty. Following Lawson's return to the court after World War II, Sparks appointed Stakely in January of 1946 to fill the unexpired term of the late William H. Thomas. Stakely won the election to the position the following November and was subsequently reelected to two six-year terms. Upon his retirement in May of 1962, he was appointed supernumerary justice.

Justice Stakely was an active member of The Thirteen, a literary and philosophical organization. He was also president of the Montgomery County Bar Association.

In 1915 Davis Fonville Stakely married LeGrand Smith of Montgomery. They had two children.