

# **JOHN GARBER BOOKOUT**

## **Court of Criminal Appeals - 1975-1982**

*BORN: October 17, 1935; Birmingham, Alabama*

John Garber Bookout attended Woodlawn High School in Birmingham and earned his law degree from the University of Alabama School of Law. At age 23, he was appointed Assistant Attorney General, and served in the Attorney General's office from 1959 to 1971. From 1971 to 1975, he served as Commissioner of Insurance in the administration of Governor George C. Wallace, who appointed him to the Court of Criminal Appeals on January 21, 1975. He was elected to a full term in November of the following year.

Judge Bookout was co-founder of the Lurleen Wallace Cancer Hospital and past president of the South Montgomery Kiwanis Club. He served as a colonel in the Alabama National Guard and retired in 1986 from the Army Reserve as a reserve appellate military judge on the United States Court of Military Appeals.

In 1982 he retired from the Court of Criminal Appeals and moved to Omaha, Nebraska, where he joined the staff of Woodsmen of the World Life Insurance Society as vice president and general counsel. Three years later he became president of that organization, and much of its growth can be attributed to him.

John Garber Bookout married Martha Hallman of Ashland, Alabama. They have three daughters.

*Portrait by Lindy Bruggink, born 1950  
Oil on canvas, 1997*