

ROBERT COMAN BRICKELL
Fourteenth Chief Justice - 1874-1884
Sixteenth Chief Justice - 1894-1898

BORN: April 4, 1824; Tusculumbia, Alabama
DIED: November 22, 1900; Huntsville, Alabama

The first Alabama-born chief justice, Robert Coman Brickell was educated at home. After working in his father's print shop, he studied law with Judge Daniel Coleman and was admitted to the bar at age nineteen. He began practicing law in Athens, then moved to Huntsville in 1851.

Appointed associate justice in June, 1873, by Governor David P. Lewis, Brickell, the sole Democrat on the court, was chosen chief justice the following year by his colleagues. He was subsequently elected to the court and continued to serve until his resignation in October, 1884. He resumed his law practice in Huntsville but moved to Montgomery in 1891.

When Chief Justice George Washington Stone died in March of 1894, Governor Thomas G. Jones appointed Brickell to fill the vacancy; Brickell thus had a second tenure as chief justice. He resigned in 1898 to return to Huntsville to practice law in partnership with his son.

Between 1869 and 1874 Brickell prepared a two-volume digest of Alabama Supreme Court decisions, adding a supplemental volume in 1888. He was also commissioned to draft the Code of Alabama of 1886.

Robert Coman Brickell married Mary Blassingame Glenn of Montgomery in November, 1876. They had two sons.