

THOMAS NICHOLAS McCLELLAN

Seventeenth Chief Justice - 1898-1906

BORN: February 23, 1853; Limestone County, Alabama

DIED: February 10, 1906; Montgomery, Alabama

Thomas Nicholas McClellan was educated in Tennessee, where he attended Oak Hill Academy and Cumberland University. Upon being awarded his law degree by Cumberland in 1872, he began practicing law in Athens, Alabama, with his brother Robert.

McClellan served as register in chancery of Limestone County from 1874 to 1876. Four years later, at the age of twenty-seven, he was elected to represent Limestone and Lauderdale counties in the Alabama Senate and served there for two terms. In 1884 he was elected state attorney general and was re-elected two years later.

Governor Thomas M. Seay appointed the thirty-six-year-old McClellan associate justice of the Supreme Court in 1889 under the provisions of the legislative act of that year which increased the size of the court from three to five justices. In 1892, he was elected to a six-year term. He became chief justice in 1898 and presided over the court until his death in 1906.

Thomas N. McClellan never married.