

THOMAS SEAY LAWSON

Associate Justice - 1942-1972

BORN: May 3, 1906; Greensboro, Alabama

Justice Thomas Seay Lawson, grandson of a former governor of Alabama, attended Southern Military Academy in Greensboro, earned his bachelor's degree from Davidson College in North Carolina, and received his law degree from the University of Alabama in 1929. He began practicing law in Selma but later moved to Greensboro. Appointed assistant attorney general in 1931, he served in that capacity for eight years; in November of 1938 he was elected to the office of Attorney General and assumed office in January, 1939.

Lawson's judicial career began in 1942 when he was both appointed and elected to serve as associate justice on the Supreme Court. Governor Frank M. Dixon appointed Lawson in October of 1942 to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Thomas E. Knight; however, Lawson had also received the Democratic nomination to the post in May of that year and won in the November election. He was reelected for four more terms and retired in 1972.

Lawson served in the United States Navy in the Pacific Theater during World War II.

In 1932 Thomas Seay Lawson married Rose Darrington Gunter. They have two children.