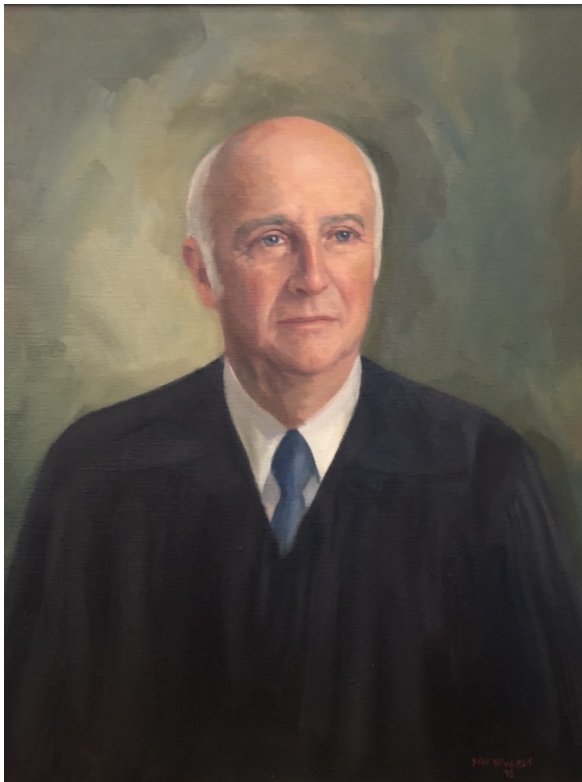


PRESTON COPELAND CLAYTON

Associate Justice: 1953-1954

BORN: September 23, 1903; Eufaula, Alabama

DIED: January 20, 1996; Eufaula, Alabama



**Portrait by MARGUERITE EDWARDS,
American, 1943 -
Oil on Canvas**

A native of Eufaula, Alabama, Preston Copeland Clayton, earned a bachelor's degree in 1924 from the University of Alabama. After three years of working for a Montgomery cotton firm, he moved to Texas spending five years in the cotton business. After returning to Alabama, Clayton read law under Judge Walter B. Jones, and was admitted to the Alabama State bar in 1931. He served in the Alabama State Senate from 1939 until 1953.

During World War II, Clayton was a Lt. Colonel in the Artillery in the Italian and North African campaigns. At Casablanca, he was in command of an Allied anti-aircraft defense. He had the duty of disbanding his 90th Anti-aircraft Regiment at the end of the Campaign in Italy.

Governor Gordon Persons appointed Clayton to the Supreme Court of Alabama in 1953, to succeed Joel Bascom Brown. After completing the term, he returned to Barbour County to continue his law practice.

Clayton married Jewel Gladys Robinson in 1933. They had four children: Isabel, Sarah, Mary, and Preston, Jr.

Junius Moore Riggs Collection

Location: Law Library Reference Area North End, West Side, Heflin-Torbert Judicial Building