



# PRIZE PROBLEM ANSWERS AND WINNERS

*The Boston Book Company*

Last autumn we invited subscribers to solve an old “Prize Problem” that was first posed by *Legal Bibliography* (aka *Leg. Bib.*) in its January 1905 issue. See *Prize Problem*, 21 *Green Bag* 2d 83 (2017). To oversimplify, *Leg. Bib.*’s idea was to invite its readers to gather up all the letters – all the As through all the Ys (there were no Zs) – appearing in a handful of *Leg. Bib.* advertisements and use them to spell the names of U.S. Supreme Court Justices and Attorneys General appearing on lists provided by *Leg. Bib.* It was a marketing stunt, but a fun one. The April 1905 issue of *Leg. Bib.* (pages 1 and 13 of which are reprinted below) provided a solution, a list of prize-winners, and a bit of editorial whining about low reader response to the “Prize Problem.” We, however, are happy with our readers, whose response to our re-issue of the “Problem” was quite good. And in a dozen instances the results were quite impressive – just as good as those of *Leg. Bib.*’s readers more than a century ago. For lists of our 12 prize-winners and the names they used to win, please turn to page 82. Congratulations to all!

— *The Editors*

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*Based in, not surprisingly, Boston, Massachusetts, the Boston Book Company was a book-publishing and book-retailing enterprise headed by C.C. Soule. See, e.g., The New Library, Washington Evening Star, Dec. 1, 1896, at 1.*

# 9 Leg. Bib. 2

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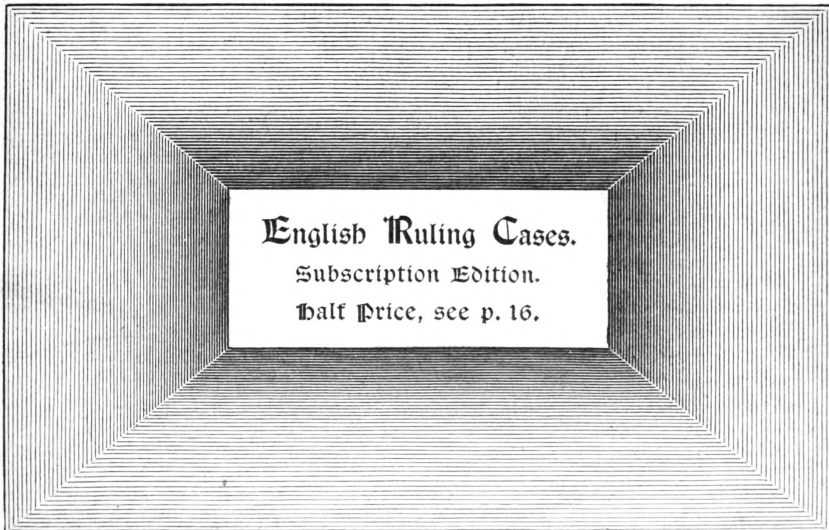
**This paper is issued quarterly, to give information about American and foreign legal literature. We send it without charge to any book-buyer who asks for it.**

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***Why not try the Green Bag this year?***

## THE 8 LEG. BIB. 2 PRIZE PROBLEM

On February 20th we opened and verified the lists which had been sent to us in competition for prizes. The result of the contest is as follows:

It will be seen that a count of "Years of Service" was required in several cases to decide the order of award; but in one case only was it necessary to divide the prize between contestants absolutely equal in the three several points of contest.

### PRIZE WINNERS

	NO. OF NAMES	LETTERS LEFT OVER	YEARS OF SERVICE	PRIZE AWARDED AND PAID
1. Samuel D. Lowenthal, 211 No. Calvert St., Baltimore, Md.	69	11		\$200.00
2. W. H. Brearley, 25 Broad St., New York City.	69	13		100.00
3. Edward H. Wells, Utica, N. Y.	69	14	660	50.00
4. H. G. Robinson, 1500 Land Title Building, Philadelphia, Pa.	69	14	649	25.00
5. Jas. E. Bixby, Dayton, N. Y.	69	14	619	17.50
6. John W. Johnson, Woburn, Mass. } Divided }	69	14	619	17.50
7. Henry A. Bull, 684 Ellicott Sq., Buffalo, N. Y.	69	15	705	10.00
8. H. J. Adams, Davenport, Iowa.	69	15	635	10.00
9. Henry F. Parker, 87 Main St., Brockton, Mass.	69	20	679	10.00
10. L. T. Waring, Franklinville, N. Y.	69	20	679	10.00
11. Thos. P. Gore, Lawton, Okla.	69	20	665	5.00
12. Fred J. MacLeod, 709 Exchange Building, Boston, Mass.	68	9		5.00
13. James H. Rogers, Savgs. Inst. Building, Paterson, N. J.	68	12	669	5.00
14. Robert S. Hall, 209 Washington St., Boston, Mass.	68	12	582	5.00
15. Daniel L. Smith, 28 State St., Boston, Mass.	68	13	613	5.00
16. A. H. Throckmorton, Danville, Ky.	68	13	612	5.00
17. Wm. G. Hosea, 48 Wiggins Block, Cincinnati, O.	68	13	596	5.00
18. Alden I. Rosbrook, Utica City Nat'l B'k Bldg., Utica, N. Y.	68	13	566	5.00
19. J. A. Ford, 119 Alice St., Dallas, Texas.	68	14	665	5.00
20. C. Berge Little, Traders' Bank Building, Scranton, Pa.	68	14	659	5.00
				\$500.00

### LIST WINNING FIRST PRIZE

NAME	YEARS	NAME	YEARS	NAME	YEARS	NAME	YEARS
1. Barbour	5	18. Davis	15	35. Jay	6	52. Shiras	12
2. Bates		19. Day	1	36. Johnson	30	53. Smith	
3. Berrion		20. Devens		37. Knox		54. Speed	
4. Black		21. Duval	25	38. Lamar	5	55. Stanton	
5. Blair	7	22. Everts		39. Lee		56. Story	34
6. Bradley	22	23. Field	34	40. Legare		57. Swayne	20
7. Brewer	15	24. Fuller	16	41. Macveagh.		58. Taft	
8. Brown	14	25. Gilpin		42. Mason		59. Taney	28
9. Butler		26. Gray	21	43. Miller	28	60. Taney	
10. Catron	28	27. Grier	23	44. Moody		61. Toucey	
11. Chase	15	28. Griggs		45. Moore	5	62. Trimble	2
12. Chase	9	29. Harlan	27	46. Nelson	27	63. Waite	14
13. Clifford	23	30. Harmon		47. Olney		64. Wayne	32
14. Clifford		31. Hoar		48. Parsons		65. White	11
15. Coffey		32. Holmes	2	49. Paterson	13	66. Williams	
16. Curtis	6	33. Hunt	10	50. Pierrepont		67. Wilson	9
17. Daniel	19	34. Iredell	9	51. Rush		68. Wirt	
						69. Woods	7

69 names; using 389 letters; 629 years of service.

### NOTES ON THE CONTEST

While the Prize Problem brought us many pleasant letters of appreciation, there were not as many contestants as we hoped for, and the results were hardly enough to repay us for the expenditures involved.

We would like to comply with the request of some of the winners, and present tables showing differentiation of lists, but we cannot afford either time or space, especially as only a very small proportion of the readers of the LEG. BIB. would apparently be interested. We doubt if many of the contestants comprehend the amount of work required for the preparation, correspondence, filing, and verification in such a contest.

We want to thank especially the contestants who failed to get prizes, for their courteous acquiescence in the result. It might have been human nature to question our accuracy or our honesty in the decision, or to worry us for reasons why this or that list did not win a prize. But we have not had a murmur or even a regret from the unsuccessful competitors, to whom we present our thanks and sympathy.

***Have you noticed how interesting every number of the Green Bag is?***

## WINNERS

- First prize (69 names): Adam Hanson, Ben Mann, and Daniel Pi  
Second prize (67 names): Evan Smith and David Sullivan  
Third prize (66 names): Susan Blizzard, James Dombrowski, and  
Michael Jaeger  
Fourth prize (65 names): Jordan Singer  
Fifth prize (64 names): John Hennigan and Dallas Kratzer  
Sixth prize (62 names): Chase Karsman

## NAMES USED

Each of our prize-winners used a slightly – or, in a couple of cases, more than slightly – different set of 60-plus names. Between them, they managed to use a total of 91: Baldwin, Barbour, Bates, Berrion, Black, Blair, Bradford, Bradley, Brewer, Brewster, Brown, Butler, Campbell, Catron, Chase, Chase, Clifford, Clifford, Coffey, Curtis, Cushing, Daniel, Davis, Day, Devens, Duval, Ellsworth, Evarts, Field, Fuller, Gilpin, Gray, Grier, Griggs, Grundy, Harlan, Harmon, Harrison, Hoar, Holmes, Hunt, Iredell, Jay, Johnson, Knox, Lamar, Lee, Legare, Lincoln, MacVeagh, Marshall, Mason, McLean, Miller, Miller, Moody, Moore, Nelson, Nelson, Olney, Parsons, Paterson, Pierrepont, Pinckney, Randolph, Rodney, Rush, Rutledge, Shiras, Smith, Speed, Stanbery, Stanton, Story, Strong, Swayne, Taft, Taney, Taney, Thompson, Todd, Toucey, Trimble, Waite, Wayne, White, Williams, Wilson, Wirt, Woodbury, and Woods.

One name on *Leg. Bib.*'s list of Supreme Court Justices – a name used by several of our winners – would not have been available if the “Prize Problem” had been developed today. “Harrison” – that is, Robert Harrison of Maryland – was, in the eyes of today's Supreme Court, never a Justice. The roster on the Court's website includes this note:

The acceptance of the appointment and commission by the appointee, as evidenced by the taking of the prescribed oaths, is here implied; otherwise the individual is not carried on this list of the Members of the Court. Example[]: Robert Hanson Harrison is not carried, as a letter from President Washington of February 9, 1790 states Harrison declined to serve.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *Justices 1789 to Present* (Nov. 12, 2018), [www.supremecourt.gov/about/members\\_text.aspx](http://www.supremecourt.gov/about/members_text.aspx).