

*To the Bag*

teaching at Yale before being lured to Washington, DC. But he grew up, under rather arduous circumstances, in Washington State's Yakima; he was a graduate of Whitman College located at Walla Walla, Washington; throughout his adult life, and especially during his many years on the Court, he spent much of his leisure time in the State of Washington. Contemporary assessments of the distribution of members of the Court always regarded Douglas as a Westerner; in the allotment of Justices, for nearly his entire record-breaking tenure his Circuit was the Ninth. Like so many other classifications, geography can be a tricky business.

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I was surprised to see Washington listed among the states that not yet had someone appointed to the Supreme Court (*The Geography of Justices*, 8 GREEN BAG 2D, p. 3), for I have always considered William O. Douglas to be one of ours. Sure, he attended law school at Columbia, practiced in New York, and taught at Yale, but he grew up in Yakima, formed his love of wilderness (and developed his stamina) hiking in the Cascades, and went to college in Walla Walla. As a Justice, he kept a summer home in Goose Prairie, a small town in what is now the William O. Douglas Wilderness.

In fact, I was reminded of Justice Douglas's Washington roots when I recently read the Introduction to volume I of *In Chambers Opinions*, published by – as you know – Green Bag Press. One of the “in chambers” opinions was not from chambers at all, but was left on a tree stump near Douglas's summer home (p. vii). Douglas also held arguments in Yakima (p. viii).

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