

Spokane Authors & Self-Publishers

Member Biography



Don Brockett

I was born in Chicago, Illinois in 1936 and moved with my family to Los Angeles CA, then Santa Barbara CA, and finally to Spokane in 1947. I graduated from Lewis & Clark High School and attended Gonzaga University where I graduated from law school in 1961.

Beginning my legal career in the Spokane County Prosecuting Attorney's office in 1961, I served as a deputy prosecuting attorney until 1969 when I was appointed Prosecuting Attorney. I was elected to the position in 1970 and was re-elected six times. I retired at the end of 1994 after serving as the elected Prosecuting Attorney for 25 years of a 33 year career in the office. I then entered private practice, remaining there for another 7 years. After 52 years of practice, I retired from the practice of law and am now an Honorary Member of the Bar Association.

I tried many jury trials including three death penalty cases. For many years, I handled all appeals of the office for many years including cases in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and the U.S. Supreme Court. One of the case I brought concerning obscenity, Brockett v. Spokane Arcades, reached the US Supreme Court. I argued the case of Aldinger v. Howard in the US Supreme Court, defending the Spokane County Treasurer against a civil rights lawsuit.

One of my most memorable criminal prosecutions was that of Fred Coe, known as the "south hill rapist". After the trial, Coe's mother tried to hire a hit man to have the trial judge killed and me beaten into the state of an "addlepatated vegetable" who was to be in diapers for the rest of my life. Police learned of the plot and met with Mrs. Coe, recorded her conversation, and arrested her. She was then prosecuted and sentenced to jail for 90 days of "school release time". The case

became the topic of Jack Olson's book "Son" and was a 1991 television program "Sins of the Mother".

I live here in Spokane with my wife the former Nerita Jean Corigliano. We had five children. One daughter, Lisa, was killed in a plane crash in Ellensburg, Washington in 1987. We have 13 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. Because of my interest in government, after retirement I decided to write a book about how U.S. Supreme Court decisions have affected our lives in a way the framers of the Constitution never intended.



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