



LEONIDAS RALPH MECHAM

Director

Administrative Office of the United States Courts
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Leonidas Ralph Mecham was appointed Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts on July 15, 1985, by the Supreme Court of the United States. He earned his B.S. degree with "highest honors" at the University of Utah, his J.D. degree at George Washington University, and holds an M.P.A. from Harvard. He was awarded a congressional fellowship to Harvard in 1963 and a graduate fellowship by Harvard in 1965.

Mr. Mecham is a member of the Executive Committee of the Judicial Conference of the United States. He is also Secretary to the Judicial Conference of the United States and provides staff support to all Conference committees. He serves on the Board of Directors of the Federal Judicial Center. He is a member of the Judicial Fellows Commission; a member of the House of Delegates of the American Bar Association; and served for two years as a member of the National Advisory Council on the Public Service Act of 1990. In 1991, he was elected as a Fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration.

Prior to his appointment as Director of the Administrative Office, Mr. Mecham began his Washington career working in the United States Senate and became administrative assistant and counsel to a senator from Utah. After more than 13 years in Washington, he returned to Utah for four years serving as Vice President of the University of Utah and also served as Dean of Continuing Education Programs, and taught constitutional law. Among other duties, he founded the University of Utah Research Park.

Later, Mr. Mecham returned to Washington, D.C., where he was Special Assistant to the Secretary of Commerce for Regional Economic Coordination, and then Co-chairman of the Four Corners Regional Economic Development Commission, a Presidential appointment which required Senate confirmation. After his Commission work, Mr. Mecham became Vice President in charge of government relations for the Anaconda Company until it was acquired by the Atlantic Richfield Company. He then served as Washington representative for the Atlantic Richfield Company until he accepted the Administrative Office directorship.

Mr. Mecham is married to the former Barbara Folsom and has five children, sixteen grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. He is a member of the Utah and District of Columbia Bar Associations. He served for 11 years on the University of Utah National Advisory Committee, most recently as Chairman, and is active in charitable and church service.

