

## Eliot Ivan Bernstein

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Professor G. Robert Blakey, the nation's foremost authority on the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization Act (RICO), has served on the Notre Dame Law School faculty for more than 30 years. He teaches in the areas of criminal law and procedure, federal criminal law and procedure, terrorism, and jurisprudence.

Prof. Blakey's extensive legislative drafting experience resulted in the passage of the Crime Control Act of 1973, the Omnibus Crime Control Act of 1970 and the Organized Crime Control Act of 1970, Title IX of which is known as "RICO". He has been personally involved in drafting and implementing RICO-type legislation in 22 of the more than 30 states that have enacted racketeering laws. He frequently argues in or consults on cases involving RICO statutes at both the federal and state levels, including several cases before the United States Supreme Court.

Prof. Blakey has considerable expertise in federal and state wiretapping statutes as well. He helped draft and secure passage of Title III on wiretapping of the federal 1968 Crime Control Act, and has been personally involved in drafting and implementing wiretapping legislation in 39 of the 43 states that have enacted such laws.

Prof. Blakey has extensively investigated the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. He served as chief counsel and staff director to the U.S. House Select Committee on Assassinations from 1977 to 1979, and helped to draft the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992.

Prof. Blakey gave remarks at the 2012 Law School Hooding/Diploma Commencement Ceremony on May 19, 2012.  
About The O'Neill Chair

The William J. and Dorothy K. O'Neill Chair in Law, established in 1985, is a gift of the O'Neill Family. Mr. O'Neill was born in Cleveland, Ohio, and graduated from the University in 1928. He founded Leaseway Transportation Corporation, one of the nation's largest companies serving motor-vehicle transportation. A former national polo champion, he served as trustee as well as the first lay president of the Gilmour Academy in Gate Mills, Ohio. He died in 1983.

Mrs. O'Neill, also a Cleveland native, graduated from Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College in Terre Haute, Indiana, in 1931, with a bachelor's degree in music. She resides in Beachwood, Ohio.

#### In the News

Conahan guilty plea expected today (Quotes: G. Robert Blakey) Citizens Voice, July 23, 2010

Mo. RICO Charges a 1st for Human Trafficking Case – New York Times, Aug. 16, 2009

You Can Handle the Truth – The American Prospect, March 10, 2009 (Quotes Robert Blakey, William and Dorothy O'Neill Professor of Law)

Book probes MLK killing (Quotes: G. Robert Blakey) Clarion Ledger, December 30, 2007

A Crime Buster, With His Eye on the Future (Quotes: G. Robert Blakey, Law) NY Times, December 10, 2007

Union tactics under fire (Quotes: G. Robert Blakey, Law) The News & Observer, November 28, 2007

Italian Mobsters in Widespread Decline (Quotes: G. Robert Blakey) New York Times, October 25, 2007

Conspiracy behind flooding, suit charges (Re: G. Robert Blakey, Law School) Gary Post Tribune, April 5, 2007

RICO law lives on despite two high-profile case losses against mob (Quotes: G. Robert Blakey, Law) Star News Online, December 27, 2006

Law school faculty help Indiana solicitor general prepare Supreme Court argument on domestic violence – ND Newswire – March 08, 2006

Legal scholars and theologians to discuss Bible and Constitution – ND Newswire – January 29, 2006

Blakey's interpretation of RICO vindicated – ND Newswire – February 25, 2003

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

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This article relies on references to primary sources or sources affiliated with the subject. Please add citations from reliable and independent sources. (January 2010)

G. Robert Blakey

Born January 7, 1936

Burlington, North Carolina

Residence Indiana

Nationality American

Citizenship United States

Education AB 1957; JD 1960

Alma mater University of Notre Dame

Occupation Law professor

Employer Notre Dame Law School

Known for Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO)

Spouse Elaine Menard

George Robert Blakey (born January 7, 1936, in Burlington, North Carolina) is an American attorney and law professor. He is best known for his work in connection with drafting the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act and for scholarship on that subject.

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[edit]Education and family

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Blakey graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 1957, earning a degree in philosophy with honors, and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. He then attended Notre Dame Law School, where he was an editor of the school's law review and was awarded a J.D. 1960.

In April 1958, during his first year of law school, Blakey married Elaine Menard, a graduate of St. Mary's College. The couple has 8 children and 18 grandchildren.

[edit]RICO and other legislation

Under the close supervision of Sen. John Little McClellan (Dem. AR), the Chairman of the Committee for which he worked, Blakey drafted the "RICO Act," Title IX of the Organized Crime Control Act of 1970, signed into law by Richard M. Nixon.[1] While in law school, Blakey edited a student note on the unsuccessful prosecution of attendees at the Apalachin Meeting, which first sparked his interest in organized crime; he also wrote a note that analyzed civil liberties in the union movement.[2] In 1960, after law school, Blakey joined the United States Department of Justice under its Honor Program, and he became a Special Attorney in the Organized Crime and Racketeering Section of the Criminal Division of the Department. After Robert F. Kennedy became Attorney General, the Department began a major effort to bring criminal prosecutions against organized crime members, corrupt political figures, and faithless union officials. The Section assigned Blakey to the effort.[3] He remained at Justice until 1964, leaving the summer after the November 1963 assassination of John F. Kennedy.[1]

Subsequently, numerous states passed racketeering legislation with Blakey's assistance modeled on the federal statute. In addition, under the close supervision of Sen. McClellan, Blakey also drafted Title III on wiretapping of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968. Numerous states, too, have wiretapping legislation modeled on the federal statute, and Blakey aided in those efforts.

[edit]Assassinations committee

Blakey was a Notre Dame law professor from 1964 to 1969, when he returned to Washington as Chief Counsel of Subcommittee on Criminal Laws and Procedures of the Senate Judiciary Committee. John Little McClellan was the Chairman of the Subcommittee.[4] Blakey credits the success of his drafting work to the dedication to needs of law enforcement, the understanding of the drafting and the processing of legislation, and basic sense of fairness of Sen. McClellan as well as the extraordinary confidence other members of the Senate placed in McClellan. Only he could have seen to the successful completion of Blakey's handiwork; if Blakey was its draftsman, McClellan was its architect and master builder.

During 1967, he was a Consultant on organized crime to the President's Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice; Lyndon B. Johnson created the Commission to examine crime in America. It recommended, among other measures, new racketeering and wiretapping legislation.

Blakey was Chief Counsel and Staff Director to the U.S. House Select Committee on Assassinations from 1977 to 1979, which investigated the assassinations of John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr. under the direction of Louis Stokes. Blakey also helped Stokes draft the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992. He and Richard Billings, the editor of the final report of the Committee, would later write a book about the assassination, *The Plot to Kill the President*, (Times Books 1981), ISBN 0-8129-0929-1

[edit]Supreme Court appearances

In Blakey's first appearance before the United States Supreme Court, he filed a brief on behalf of the Attorneys General of Massachusetts and Oregon and the National District Attorneys Association in the case of *Berger v. New York* (1967), which dealt with wiretapping. He argued on behalf of the Securities Investor Protection Corporation in what became *Holmes v. SIPC* (1992); he argued on behalf of pro-life activist Joseph Scheidler in what became *Scheidler v. National Organization for Women* (2006), and he argued on behalf of the beneficiaries of insurance policies in what became *Humana, Inc. v. Forsyth* (1999).

[edit]Later career

Blakey served as a Professor of Law and Director of the Cornell Institute on Organized Crime at the Cornell Law School (1973–80). He also was Special Counsel to the United States Judiciary Committee under Joseph Biden[5]

As of January 2010, he is the William J. and Dorothy K. O'Neill Professor of Law at the Notre Dame Law School.[6]

[edit]Notes

<sup>a</sup> <sup>b</sup> "G. Robert Blakey". Notre Dame law faculty. Retrieved 2009-03-06.

<sup>a</sup> G. Robert Blakey, "RICO: The Genesis of an Idea," *Trends in Organized Crime* 9(4): 88-34, n. 30

<sup>a</sup> G. Robert Blakey, "RICO: The Genesis of an Idea," *Trends in Organized Crime* 9(4): 88-34, 11

<sup>a</sup> G. Robert Blakey, "RICO: The Genesis of an Idea," *Trends in Organized Crime* 9(4): 88-34, 14-18

<sup>a</sup> Liptak, Adam. 2008. "A Corporate View of Mafia Tactics: Protestng, Lobbying and Citing Upton Sinclair," *New York Times*, February 5.

<sup>a</sup> "Interview:G Robert Blakey". *Frontline*. Retrieved 2006-11-25.