



**Biographical Information on Robert J. Conrad, Jr.,
Nominee for U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit**

July 19, 2007

Robert J. Conrad, Jr. has spent most of his career at the United States District Court for the Western District of North Carolina serving as chief judge (2006-present), judge (2005-2006), the United States Attorney (2001-2004), and an Assistant United States Attorney (1989-2001).¹ In the time between the U.S. Attorney's office and his appointment to the bench, Conrad was a partner at Mayer, Brown, Rowe & Maw (2004-2005).² Born in Chicago, Illinois in 1958,³ Conrad was an Academic All-American in basketball at Clemson University majoring in history;⁴ he received his law degree from the University of Virginia (UVA) in 1983.⁵ In 2007, Conrad taught at the 26th Annual National Trial Advocacy College at UVA.⁶ Judge Conrad is admitted to the North Carolina and Virginia bars.⁷ Conrad, a Catholic, serves on the Board of Visitors of Ave Maria Law School.⁸

Judge Conrad has had a number of noteworthy professional accomplishments. While he

¹ The Federal Judicial Center, *Conrad, Robert James, Jr.*, at <http://www.fjc.gov/servlet/tGetInfo?jid=3085>.

² Press Release, Mayer, Brown, Rowe & Maw, U.S. Attorney Robert Conrad Joins Mayer, Brown, Rowe & Maw LLP Charlotte Office, (June 14, 2004) (on file with Mayer, Brown, Rowe & Maw).

³ United States Department of Justice, *Robert J. Conrad*, at <http://www.usdoj.gov/olp/conradresume.htm>.

⁴ Clemson World Online, *Federal Judge*, (Summer 2005—Vol. 58, No. 3), available at <http://www.clemson.edu/clemsonworld/archive/2005/summer05/feature3.htm>.

⁵ United States Department of Justice, *supra* note 3.

⁶ The Trial Advocacy College, *Faculty Biographies*, at http://www.trialadcollege.org/bio_conrad.htm.

⁷ The Federal Judicial Center, *supra* note 1.

⁸ Ave Maria Law School, *CSO Services*, at http://www.avemarialaw.edu/prospective/admissions/cso_services.cfm

led the U.S. Attorney's Office, "prosecution of corporate fraud and other white collar matters dramatically increased in both numbers and complexity of cases."⁹ Also, in the first trial of its kind, the office prosecuted "a Hezbollah terrorist cell. . . obtain[ing] convictions for providing support to a terrorist organization, RICO, money laundering and conspiracy."¹⁰ After the reinstatement of capital punishment, Conrad was one of the first prosecutors in North Carolina to obtain the death penalty.

As the Department of Justice's Campaign Financing Task Force Chief, Conrad examined President Clinton and Vice-President Gore under oath. Regarding his performance in that capacity, Janet Reno said he was "one person who deserves a great deal of credit for the success of the investigation. I am impressed with his judgment. . . and his knowledge of the law. He is an excellent prosecutor." Conrad served on General Ashcroft's Advisory Committee, "considered by top level [Justice] department officials as one of the most influential U.S. Attorneys in the country."¹¹ Both North Carolina Senators have applauded his nomination to the Fourth Circuit.¹²

Conrad has published both a law review article and a Letter to the Editor.¹³ Conrad wrote an article discussing the need to live life with intentionality recognizing that "God is sought, or forgotten, in the midst of living ordinary lives, and especially in the ordinary activities of daily work."¹⁴ His letter to the editor was criticized by Senator Leahy in 2005 because he called Sister Helen Prejean's book *Dead Man Walking* "liberal drivel."¹⁵

⁹ Press Release, *supra* note 2.

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² Press Release, Office of Senator Richard Burr, *Burr Applauds Nomination of Robert Conrad to Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals* (July 17, 2007) (on file at Senator Burr's office); Press Release, Office of Senator Elizabeth Dole, *Dole Applauds Nomination of Conrad to Fourth Circuit* (July 17, 2007) (on file at Senator Dole's office).

¹³ S. Comm. On the Judiciary, 109th Cong., Statement of S. Leahy, Executive Business Meeting, Apr. 15, 2005.

¹⁴ Robert J. Conrad, Jr., *Can the Ordinary Practice of Law be a Religious Calling?*, 32 *Pepp. L. Rev.* 551, 551 (2005).

¹⁵ Robert J. Conrad, *Letter to the Editor: Habitually Wrong*, Catholic Dossier, Sept-Oct 1998, available at <http://www.catholic.net/rcc/Periodicals/Dossier/JAN-FEB1999/Letters.html>.