

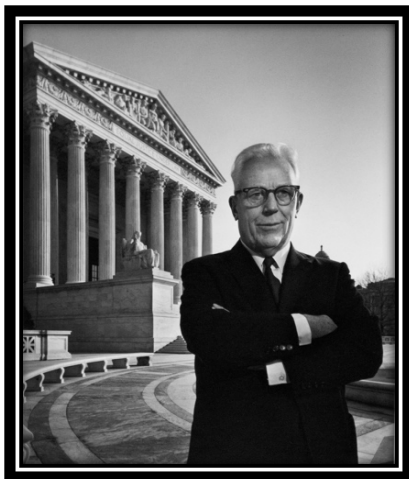
PROFILE OF RESISTANCE

EARL WARREN

lawyer, soldier, governor, activist, judge

“The censor's sword pierces deeply into the heart of free expression.”

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Background Information

Born on March 19, 1891; Died on July 9, 1974

Earl Warren was raised in an immigrant family that stressed education and hard work. Warren was influenced by his father's job as a railroad car mechanic and from local judicial trials he routinely watched. Warren saw the power of industry monopolies and corruption through his father's career, which influenced his career shortly after college. Earl Warren went to the University of California, Berkley and received both a bachelor's degree in political science and a juris doctor degree in 1914.¹

Warren's Resistance

Warren was drafted into World War I after college. Afterwards, he worked in the district attorney's office. He was appointed as the district attorney of Alameda County in California in 1925. His campaigns were run using personal funds rather than corporate donations, and his nonpartisan ideology became respected state wide. Warren strictly enforced the law and worked against corruption in his political and public service career. Warren's work ethic and honesty earned him nationwide fame and respect.² Warren moved from district attorney to state attorney general and then became California's 30th governor, serving for a decade. In 1953 he was sworn in as Chief Justice on the US Supreme Court. He retired from the court in 1969.

Warren was instrumental in enforcing *Mendez vs. Westminster* as a governor and was the lead US Supreme Court Justice who ensured a unanimous ruling on *Brown vs. the Board of Education*. Both cases worked to end legal racial segregation and separate but equal ideology from *Plessy v. Ferguson*. Warren pushed to improve public education for everyone through laws and court decisions that worked toward equity and inclusion.³

Achievements

Warren attempted to promote fairness and equity in an admirable, attainable way. Warren stands as a resistor to discrimination and legal injustice. Warren's work created legislation and policy that strongly encouraged equity through a fair rule of law.

¹ Cray, Ed (1997). Chief Justice: A Biography of Earl Warren. ISBN 978-0-684-80852-9.

² Dennis J. Hutchinson, "Hail to the Chief: Earl Warren and the Supreme Court," 81 Michigan Law Review 922 (1983).

³ Earl Warren. (n.d.). Retrieved October 29, 2019, from https://www.oyez.org/justices/earl_warren.

