

ROBERT BYRON WILLIAMSON, Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court of the State of Maine; son, grandson, and brother of Bowdoin men. A graduate of Phillips Academy at Andover, and of the College and Law School at Harvard, veteran of World War I, his able service at the bar was early complemented by his election to the Common Council of Augusta, and to the State Legislature. Appointed to the Superior Court in 1945, and the Supreme Judicial Court in 1949, as Chief Justice for Maine since 1956 he has embarked on what he once called “a great adventure designed to improve the administration of justice.” With Maine Yankee common sense, by knowledge firmly based on good education, and through rigorous training in the essentials of the law, his own interests and his personal authority have been major factors in the development of new Maine Rules of Civil Procedure. To render full service to the people of the State, his firm stand has been responsible for the shift in the Maine courts from the old common law forms of pleading to the adoption of more modern rules based on federal practice. Within these same five full years, this modest and hard working “squire” has been cited for his service to his church as President of the Maine Congregational Conference, and by B’nai B’rith for exemplifying in his own way of life the principles of brotherhood. From his own quotation of Whitehead may we typify the man we honor, “The ideals cherished in the souls of men enter into the character of their actions.”

Honoris Causa, DOCTOR OF LAWS