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ARTICLES

A CAPSULE BIOGRAPHY OF JOSEPH T. SNEED, III

Rollins S. Emerson*

Judge Sneed was born on July 21, 1920, in Calvert, Texas. His father and extended family were farmers and ranchers. He served as a Staff Sergeant in the Army Air Corps during World War II, when he met and married the love of his life, Madelon Juergens Sneed. He received his J.D. from the University of Texas, Austin, in 1947 and stayed on to teach law there until 1957. He received his S.J.D. from Harvard in 1958.

He taught law at Cornell from 1957 to 1962, Stanford from 1962 to 1971, and Duke from 1971 to 1973, where he was also dean of the law school. President Nixon appointed him Deputy Attorney General in 1973; in that position, he managed the government's response to the Wounded Knee occupation.

President Nixon nominated him to the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit on July 25, 1973, and he received his commission on August 24, 1973. He assumed senior status in 1987 but maintained a full caseload until a few years before his death on February 9, 2008.

Judge Sneed served on numerous court and national committees, and was a member of the special court impaneled

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by Chief Justice Rehnquist that appointed Kenneth Starr to investigate President Clinton.

In 1982, he gave a speech about judicial discretion at a Federal Judicial Center workshop for the district judges of the Second Circuit. The materials that follow were the basis for that address.

