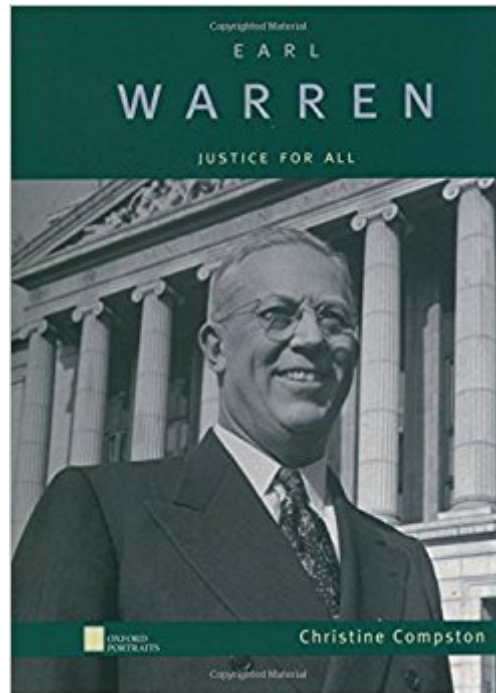


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# Earl Warren: Justice For All (Oxford Portraits)



## Synopsis

In *Earl Warren*, Christine Compston examines how a man with little judicial experience became one of the greatest Supreme Court chief justices in the history of the United States. A natural leader, Warren rose from a working-class childhood to become governor of California before he was appointed to the Supreme Court. Warren had the courage to make decisions that were politically unpopular yet constitutionally sound and morally right, such as his first major opinion *Brown v. Board of Education*, which desegregated schools. By examining the life of this extraordinary judge, *Earl Warren* illuminates, with black-and-white photos and illustrations throughout, the struggles behind some of the most profound events of the 20th century, including World War II and the Japanese internment, the civil rights movement, the criminal protection revolution (i.e. *Miranda v. Arizona*), and the investigation of President Kennedy's assassination. Oxford Portraits are informative and insightful biographies of people whose lives shaped their times and continue to influence ours. Based on the most recent scholarship, they draw heavily on primary sources, including writings by and about their subjects. Each book is illustrated with a wealth of photographs, documents, memorabilia, framing the personality and achievements of its subject against the backdrop of history.

## Book Information

Series: Oxford Portraits

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Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Grade Level: 7 - 12

## Customer Reviews

Grade 9 Up-This book could be considered a biography of the man but its reach is much deeper than the individual. Not only was Warren's court extremely precise in legal judgments, but his family was also held to a higher standard than most. He expected them to be role models for values and attitudes in their everyday life as much as he held himself as a role model for the law community. Warren's *raison d'être*, "to protect and defend," was often criticized in part due to his standing behind unpopular causes and people. His effect on the global community is evidenced by the text box insertions of letters and documents from other prominent people to or about Warren. There are a number of black-and-white photos of the Justice interacting with other important figures in history as well as some campaign posters and newspaper articles. These pictures are all from government archives, museums, and institutes for higher education. The book concludes with a chronology of important events, a lengthy bibliography, and a detailed index. Marilyn Fairbanks, Azure IRC, Brockton High School, MACopyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

Gr. 7-10. A Supreme Court chief justice who left a mark on history is the subject of this balanced biography from the Oxford Portraits series. Born into a Scandinavian immigrant family in 1891, Warren practiced law in California before entering politics. He first served as a local district attorney, then as attorney general of California and governor of the state, and finally as chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. Along the way, he made his share of mistakes and garnered his share of controversy. Overall, however, Compston's convincing portrait shows a man with ideals, energy, and a firm respect for the law, who used his considerable talents for the common good. Her portrayal of Warren's behind-the-scenes relationships with Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, and Nixon throws interesting sidelights on presidential history. A chronology and a bibliography are appended. Illustrations, mostly photos, appear throughout the book. An interesting, balanced account of a chief justice who left his mark on American history. Carolyn PhelanCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

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