

## Who is or was your favorite Supreme Court justice and why?

"I have always been inspired by the legal career of Justice Thurgood Marshall. Because of his tireless efforts in *Brown v. Board of Education* and his fearless use of the law to champion civil rights,

African Americans have been able to achieve goals that were previously denied to our ancestors. Justice Marshall broke down barriers throughout his career, and his life's work, along with that of many others, paved the way

for our new president.

"I am thrilled that the significance and breadth of his work as a lawyer and jurist will be highlighted during the 2009 AALL Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. The Black Caucus' program on the collection of Thurgood Marshall Papers at the Library of Congress should be both educational and uplifting."

—**Lisa A. Goodman**, senior public services librarian at Texas Wesleyan University School of Law in Fort Worth

"My favorite Supreme Court Justice was Sandra Day O'Connor, the first woman to be seated on the nation's highest

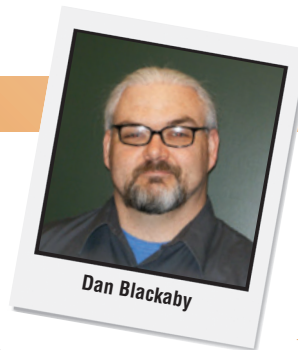
court. This accomplished Stanford Law School graduate, who had served on her school's law review and graduated near the top of her class, was unable to secure employment with a law firm in California because she was a female, so she opted for a career in public service rather than in the private sector.

"At the time she was appointed to the Court, controversy raged over the abortion issue, and conservatives feared her as too liberal on the issue, while the liberal segment worried that she would work to overturn *Roe v. Wade*. During her 25-year tenure on the Court, Justice O'Connor demonstrated fairness and refused to allow her personal beliefs to cloud her judgment on the bench. *Roe v. Wade* was never overturned.

"Justice O'Connor retired from the bench in 2006. She occupies her time caring for her husband who is stricken with Alzheimer's, golfing, reading, writing, and teaching. O'Connor has also been the recipient of numerous honors and awards."

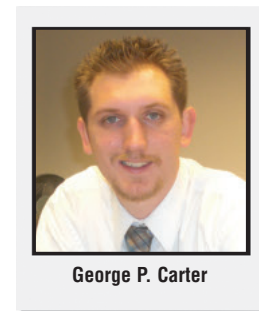
—**Carey Rowan**, director of the Contra Costa County Public Law Library in Martinez, California

"My response is Pierce Butler, because he was the lone dissenter in *Buck v. Bell*. When faced with the issue of forced sterilization of the 'feeble-minded,' Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.'s response was 'three generations of imbeciles are enough.' Butler wouldn't even dignify the issue with a written opinion. He simply said, 'No.'"



—**Dan Blackaby**, bibliographic services manager at Western State University College of Law Library in Fullerton, California

"My favorite Supreme Court Justice is Antonin Scalia. Justice Scalia's intellectual acuity is unmatched by his counterparts on the bench. His opinions, particularly in dissenting in the *Boumediene v. Bush* decision, are cutting and rather revealing of the judicial finagling that takes place in the Supreme Court. I particularly enjoy the fact that those who disagree with Justice Scalia usually dismiss him as a right-wing fanatic rather than challenge the validity of his arguments."



—**George P. Carter**, reference librarian at the Law Library for San Bernardino County in San Bernardino, California.

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