

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR



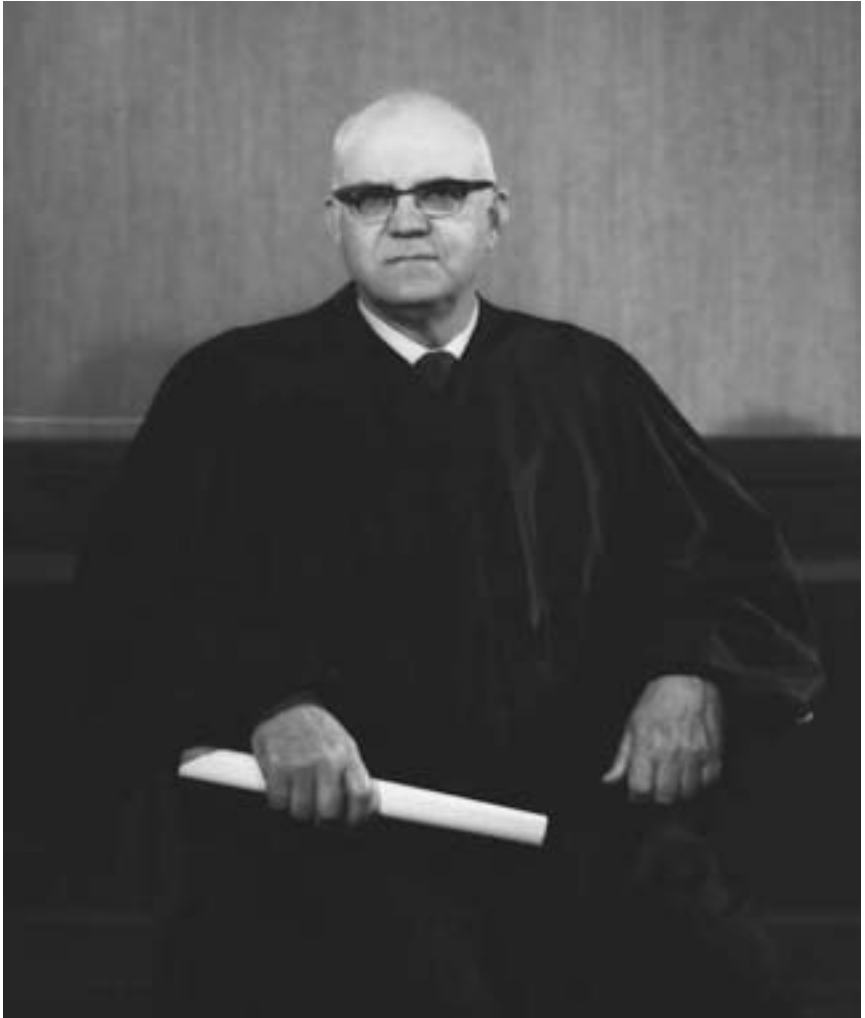
Cameron Bruce Littlejohn is an icon in South Carolina history. He has served his state and nation as:

- Premier South Carolina attorney
- Military leader during and after World War II, who served as a military prosecutor of Japanese war criminals
- Member of the S.C. House of Representatives
- Speaker, S.C. House of Representatives
- Distinguished S.C. Circuit Court judge, 17 years
- Associate justice, S.C. Supreme Court, 17 years
- Chief justice, S.C. Supreme Court, 1 ½ years
- Acting judge, S.C. Court of Appeals, 10 years

Chief Justice Littlejohn was born on July 22, 1913, in the small farming and mill community of Pacolet, in Spartanburg County, South Carolina, the youngest of eight children of Lady Sara Warmoth and Cameron Littlejohn. He graduated from Pacolet High School and from Wofford College in 1933. He attended and graduated from the University of South Carolina School of Law where he was a member of the debate team and president of the senior law class.

Upon graduation from law school in 1936, Littlejohn returned to Spartanburg to practice law, then stood for the S.C. House of Representatives and was elected. On February 7, 1942, he married Inell Smith of Inman. He served with distinction in the S.C. House for seven years, resigning on October 25, 1943, to volunteer as a private in the U.S. Army. He was discharged as a first lieutenant in 1946 after foreign service, which included a tour of duty in the Philippines as a military prosecutor of Japanese war criminals.

On February 9, 1949, Littlejohn was elected judge for the Seventh Judicial Circuit. As he rode the circuit, he soon came to be recognized as one of the state's most able, fair and popular trial judges. He presided



*Chief Justice Bruce Littlejohn*

over his court with dignity and firmness. His disarming wit, easy-going manner, warm personality and, especially, his patience with young lawyers made his visits to each circuit a welcomed event.

As a trial judge, this man managed to earn the respect and admiration of the attorneys who appeared before him, regardless of the outcome of their cases. His keen insight and distinguished demeanor on the trial bench were tempered with a sense of humor and charm, which endeared him to those around him. His book, *Laugh with the Judges*, published in 1974, is a delightful compendium of trial antidotes, which provides the reader with the opportunity to view the legal profession through the eyes of one of its shrewdest observers. Above all, a sense of legal genius and fairness pervaded Judge Littlejohn's courtroom.

As Justice Littlejohn, his gift for legal reasoning and proficient opinion writing swiftly became apparent. Whether his thoughts reflected what ultimately became the majority or the minority view, they were always met with the respect and careful consideration of his colleagues.

Judge Littlejohn's transition to chief justice was easily accomplished given his natural leadership qualities and the respect already accorded him by his brethren. He was at once a brilliant legal scholar and persuasive diplomat. His unique personality had well-prepared him for his position as administrative head of the unified judicial system, where he instilled a sense of cooperation and common purpose among the various courts. Moreover, he was an effective liaison between the judiciary and other branches of state government and was adept at resolving conflicts between them.

In retirement, Chief Justice Littlejohn continued to be active as a judge, serving as an acting judge for the S.C. Court of Appeals for more than 10 years.

Chief Justice Littlejohn's commitment to diversity was demonstrated when he used his authority to appoint acting supreme court justices to allow Carol Connor and Jasper Cureton to become, respectively, the first woman and the first African-American to serve on the state's highest court.

– Jean H. Toal  
Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of South Carolina