

The Ballad of Robert E. Jones

Did you ever hear of Judge Robert E. Jones
He knows evidence law, it's deep in his bones.
He grew up in Portland, mostly stayed out of fights
Aspired to Upper Multnomah County Jail Heights.

As a kid, little Bobby was a popular guy
No surprise he survived in the halls of Grant High.
A star on the golf course, he played every day
Didn't let that small windmill ever get in the way.

When he was still young he fell hard for a girl
A jewel of beauty, so her name it was Pearl.
And he hoped she might date him, maybe stay out past dark
But when he drove to her house he always had to double park.

Later worked in the shipyards, sailed on the sea
Became a claims adjuster for the GAB.
But just when you thought Bobby hadn't a flaw
He took a strange turn and veered off into law.

The famed Lunchmeat trial, did he play a part?
With Tongue and Lung, Weiner, Belloni, and Hart.
Served in the legislature, disliked the stench
So he spoke to some pals and got sent to the bench.

Perhaps chosen for merit or the smile in his eye
But mostly, from being an alum of Grant High.
His judicial career began with a boom
When he sent his first jury to the Guilty Room.

In court every day, and then after dark,
He went to teach classes at Lewis & Clark.
His classes on mortgages were truly sublime
They learned the Eighth Amendment at the same time.

Thrice he declined the state's Court of Appeals
It was like a factory, but with no time for meals.
Till he finally got picked for the job of his dreams
One of the seven of the Oregon Supremes.

He got there and got down to work without fear
Wrote 32 opinions in his very first year.
He guarded the rights of the mean and the nice
But the cons still recall him as a man made of ice.

We must tell the truth of his case of renown
The polygraph saga of *State v. Brown*
Which predated *Daubert* by ten years or more
And is found at 297 Or. 404.

He was decisive, never sat on the fence
Became the Court's guru on the law of evidence.
Then it was U.S. District Court or bust
When Robert the Righteous joined James the Just.

Teaching and judging he never forsook
But then he went further and published a book
If you haven't used Rutter yet, please do not fear
The movie version's coming out later this year.

By now we all know of Judge Robert E. Jones
A judge for whom justice resides in his bones.
Other folks' praises should augment the din,
But Judge Jones says it's hearsay and won't let it in.