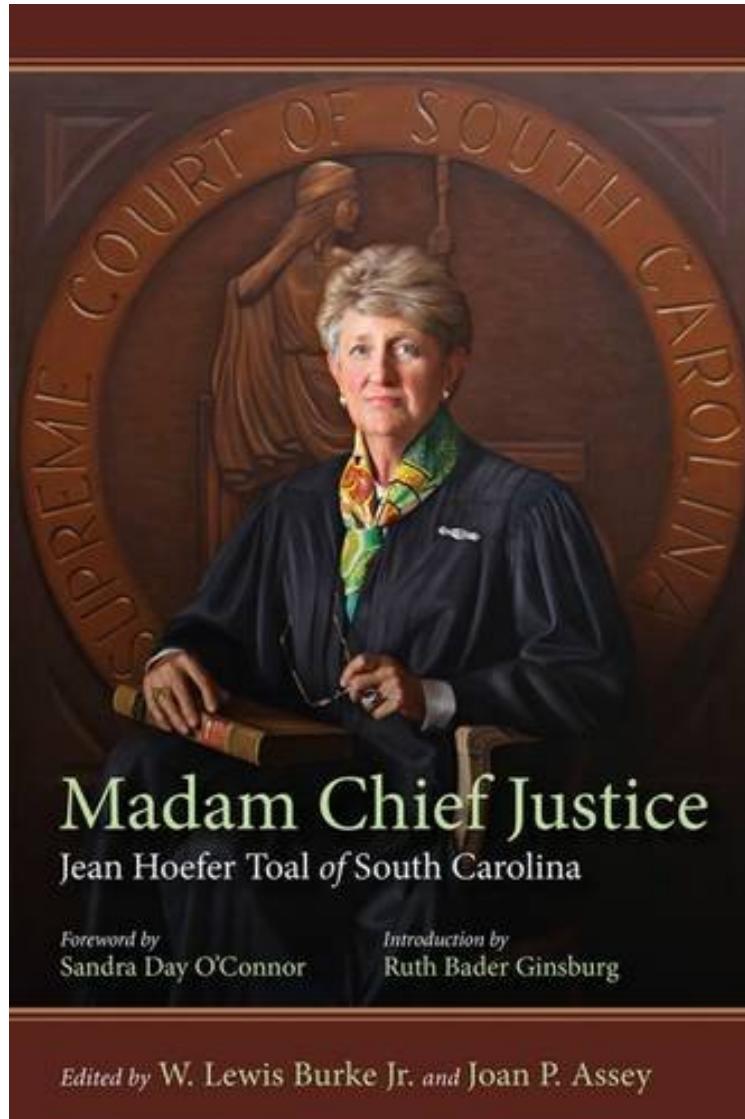


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## Madam Chief Justice: Jean Hoefler Toal of South Carolina

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**From University of South Carolina Press : Madam Chief Justice: Jean Hoefler Toal of South Carolina** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Madam Chief Justice: Jean Hoefler Toal of South Carolina:

In Madam Chief Justice, editors W. Lewis Burke Jr. and Joan P. Assey chronicle the remarkable career of Jean Hoefler Toal, South Carolinas first female Supreme Court Chief Justice. As a lawyer, legislator, and judge, Toal is one of the

most accomplished women in South Carolina history. In this volume, contributors, including two United States Supreme Court Justices, federal and state judges, state leaders, historians, legal scholars, leading attorneys, family, and friends, provide analysis, perspective, and biographical information about the life and career of this dynamic leader and her role in shaping South Carolina. Growing up in Columbia during the 1950s and 60s, Jean Hoefler was a youthful witness to the civil rights movement in the state and nation. Observing the state's premier civil rights lawyer Matthew J. Perry Jr. in court encouraged her to attend law school, where she met her husband, Bill Toal. When she was admitted to the South Carolina Bar in 1968, fewer than one hundred women had been admitted in the state's history. From then forward she was both a leader and a role model. As a lawyer she excelled in trial and appellate work and won major victories on behalf of Native Americans and women. In 1975, Toal was elected to the South Carolina House of Representatives and despite her age and gender quickly became one of the most respected members of that body. During her fourteen years as a House member, Toal promoted major legislation on many issues including constitutional law, criminal law, utilities regulation, local government, state appropriations, workers compensation, and freedom of information. In 1988, Toal was sworn in as the first female justice on the Supreme Court of South Carolina, where she made her mark through her preparation and insight. She was elected Chief Justice in 2000, becoming the first woman ever to hold the highest position in the state's judiciary. As Chief Justice, Toal not only modernized her court, but also the state's judicial system. As Toal's two daughters write in their chapter, the traits their mother brings to her professional life—exuberance, determination, and loyalty—are the same traits she demonstrates in her personal and family life. As a child, Toal loved roller skating in the lobby of the post office, a historic building that now serves as the Supreme Court of South Carolina. From a child in Columbia to Madam Chief Justice, her story comes full circle in this compelling account of her life and influence. *Madam Chief Justice* features a foreword by Sandra Day O'Connor, retired associate justice of the United States Supreme Court, and an introduction by Ruth Bader Ginsburg, an associate justice of the United States Supreme Court.

This comprehensive presentation of the life and career of Chief Justice Toal details her impact on modern government, the court system, and the legal profession. As women in South Carolina have achieved positions of leadership as federal judges, Supreme Court justices, and trial judges at every level, we know that we all stand on the shoulders of Jean Hoefler Toal. Michele Childs, U.S. District Court Judge: Chief Justice Toal has led our state's highest court with distinction and determination. Early in her tenure, she sought to modernize South Carolina's antiquated court system . . . Employing cutting-edge technologies, she created an internet-based system. . . widely regarded as a national model. Former U.S. Senator Ernest F. Fritz Hollings: Jean Toal translated her high school and college involvements in the 1960s desegregation movement into a lifelong pursuit of liberty and justice for all South Carolinians. Working shoulder to shoulder with her has provided me some unique and blessed experiences. U.S. Congressman James E. Clyburn: The editors have assembled eloquent voices to detail the trailblazing career of this remarkable South Carolina leader. Jean Toal's passion for the law as a lawyer, legislator, and judge paved the way for a modern South Carolina. Harris Pastides, president, University of South Carolina: Chief Justice Toal is one of South Carolina's most important women. A lifelong pro-life Democrat, she fits no Southern stereotype or political template. Kathleen Parker, Pulitzer Prize-winning writer for the Washington Post: Madame Chief Justice celebrates a towering and historic life. Jean Toal's wisdom, courage, and perseverance are captured masterfully in this book. It is a must-read for all who care for the rule of law and for the pioneers who have devoted their lives to its service. Wallace B. Jefferson, Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Texas (ret.): *Madam Chief Justice* is a remarkable book chronicling a remarkable life. It captures in exquisite and elegant detail the trailblazing leadership of one of the seminal figures in the history of South Carolina. This volume is a scintillating story of the legal and political history of South Carolina of the last 50 years, a history that cannot be told without having as a centerpiece the life and times of the extraordinary and incomparable Jean Hoefler Toal. William Hubbard, Nelson Mullins Riley Scarborough LLP: This biography of Chief Justice Toal is not only informative and entertaining, it contains a rather definitive history of South Carolina during the period of her public life. Alex Sanders, president emeritus, College of Charleston: About the Author: W. Lewis Burke Jr. is an emeritus professor of law at the University of South Carolina where he was chair of the Department of Clinical Legal Studies and taught clinics, alternative dispute resolution, trial advocacy, and South Carolina legal history. Before joining the law school faculty, he was a VISTA Volunteer and a legal services attorney. Burke is the author and editor of five books and the author of numerous essays and articles on legal history. He resides on a farm in Saluda County. Joan P. Assey is the director of technology for the South Carolina Judicial Department. Under Assey's leadership, South Carolina has been awarded \$52 million in federal grants during the past ten years to use in developing technology for its court system. Previously, she served as the technology advisor for education in the Office of Governor James Hodges. Assey began her professional career as an educator in Richland County School District Two, where she taught middle and high school English. She lives in Columbia. Sandra Day O'Connor is a retired associate justice of the United States Supreme Court. Ruth Bader Ginsburg is an associate justice of the United States Supreme Court.