

# Judges Say the Darndest Things

*Compiled by*  
Fred Shackelford

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## DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to my wife, Anne,  
and to our children, Charles and Courtney

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## FOREWORD

When I was a child I often watched a television program that starred Art Linkletter. The show, which was called *Art Linkletter's House Party*, aired on CBS from 1952 until 1969. A regular segment on the show was called "Kids Say the Darndest Things," and it featured humorous interviews with young children. (In recent years Art Linkletter collaborated with Bill Cosby in a revival of these segments on a CBS show called, not surprisingly, *Kids Say The Darndest Things*.)

Since 1980, when I enrolled at the University of Virginia Law School and began reading legal cases on a regular basis, I have discovered that from time to time judges also say the darndest things. This book is a collection of excerpts from cases—excerpts that I hope the reader will agree are humorous or surprising. While I have uncovered many of these excerpts myself, a number were brought to my attention by my colleagues at the National Legal Research Group. Founded in 1969, National Legal Research Group is the nation's oldest and largest provider of legal research, analysis, and advocacy, with attorney clients throughout the United States. I thank them for sharing their findings with me and with others at the firm.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Fred Shackelford is a graduate of Woodberry Forest School, the University of Virginia, and the University of Virginia School of Law. After practicing for several years with private law firms in Richmond and Charlottesville, Virginia, he became a senior attorney at the National Legal Research Group in Charlottesville. *Judges Say the Darndest Things* is his first published work. Fred and his family live in Albemarle County, Virginia.