

Felix Frankfurter

Quotes

Men, Law, Freedom, Liberty, Judging, Mean, Expression, Political, Important, Real, People, Justice, Judicial, Light, Exercise, Land, Order, Facts, Mind, Guilt

The mark of a truly civilized man is confidence in the strength and security derived from the inquiring mind.

~Felix Frankfurter

Appeal must be to an informed, civically militant electorate.

~Felix Frankfurter

The real rulers in Washington are invisible, and exercise power from behind the scenes.

~Felix Frankfurter

The history of liberty has largely been the history of the observance of procedural safeguards.

~Felix Frankfurter

Gratitude is one of the least articulate of the emotions, especially when it is deep.

~Felix Frankfurter

We have enjoyed so much freedom for so long that we are perhaps in danger of forgetting how much blood it cost to establish the Bill of Rights.

~Felix Frankfurter

It is a wise man who said that there is no greater inequality than the equal treatment of unequals.

~Felix Frankfurter

Wisdom too often never comes, and so one ought not to reject it merely because it comes late.

~Felix Frankfurter

Freedom of speech and of the press are essential to the enlightenment of a free people and in restraining those who wield power.

~Felix Frankfurter

No office in the land is more important than that of being a citizen.

~Felix Frankfurter

There can be no security where there is fear.

~Felix Frankfurter

If nowhere else, in the relation between Church and State, "good fences make good neighbors."

~Felix Frankfurter

The ultimate touchstone of constitutionality is the Constitution itself, and not what we have said about it.

~Felix Frankfurter

It is a fair summary of history to say that the safeguards of liberty have been forged in controversies involving not very nice people.

~Felix Frankfurter

Freedom of the press is not an end in itself but a means to the end of a free society.

~Felix Frankfurter

Old age and sickness bring out the essential characteristics of a man.

~Felix Frankfurter

Judicial judgment must take deep account...of the day before yesterday in order that yesterday may not paralyze today.

~Felix Frankfurter

The dynamo of our economic system is self-interest which may range from mere petty greed to admirable types of self-expression.

~Felix Frankfurter

Answers are not obtained by putting the wrong question and thereby begging the real one.

~Felix Frankfurter

Anybody who is any good is different from anybody else.

~Felix Frankfurter

We forget that the most successful statesmen have been professionals. Lincoln was a professional politician.

~Felix Frankfurter

I don't like a man to be too efficient. He's likely to be not human enough.

~Felix Frankfurter

The most constructive way of resolving conflicts is to avoid them.

~Felix Frankfurter

I know of no title that I deem more honorable than that of Professor of the Harvard Law School.

~Felix Frankfurter

The line must follow some direction of policy, whether rooted in logic or experience. Lines should not be drawn simply for the sake of drawing lines.

~Felix Frankfurter

It simply is not true that war never settles anything.

~Felix Frankfurter

To some lawyers, all facts are created equal.

~Felix Frankfurter

If one man can be allowed to determine for himself what is law, every

man can. That means first chaos, then tyranny. Legal process is an essential part of the democratic process.

~Felix Frankfurter

Democracy is always a beckoning goal, not a safe harbor. For freedom is an unremitting endeavor, never a final achievement.

~Felix Frankfurter

Litigation is the pursuit of practical ends, not a game of chess.

~Felix Frankfurter

Thirty resolute men in your House of Commons could save the world.

~Felix Frankfurter

There is torture of mind as well as body; the will is as much affected by fear as by force. And there comes a point where this Court should not be ignorant as judges of what we know as men.

~Felix Frankfurter

The ultimate foundation of a free society is the binding tie of cohesive sentiment.

~Felix Frankfurter

No judge writes on a wholly clean slate.

~Felix Frankfurter

Fragile as reason is and limited as law is as the institutionalised medium of reason, that's all we have between us and the tyranny of mere will and the cruelty of unbridled, undisciplined feelings.

~Felix Frankfurter

It has not been unknown that judges persist in error to avoid giving the appearance of weakness and vacillation.

~Felix Frankfurter

The Procrustean bed is not a symbol of equality. It is no less inequality to have equality among unequals.

~Felix Frankfurter

It is important not to give the appearance of a predisposed mind. And it is more important not to let the mind become predisposed.

~Felix Frankfurter

Ambiguity lurks in generality, and may thus become an instrument of severity.

~Felix Frankfurter

To be effective, judicial administration must not be leaden-footed.

~Felix Frankfurter

A court which yields to the popular will thereby licenses itself to practice despotism, for there can be no assurance that it will not, on another occasion, indulge its own will.

~Felix Frankfurter

It is hostile to a democratic system to involve the judiciary in the politics of the people.

~Felix Frankfurter

The indispensable judicial requisite is intellectual humility.

~Felix Frankfurter

We recognize that stare decisis embodies an important social policy that represents an element of continuity in law and is rooted in the psychological need to satisfy reasonable expectations.

~Felix Frankfurter

In law also the emphasis makes the song.

~Felix Frankfurter

Anybody can decide a question if only a single principle is in controversy.

~Felix Frankfurter

It would be a narrow conception of jurisprudence to confine the notion of "laws" to what is found written on the statute books, and to disregard the gloss which life has written upon it.

~Felix Frankfurter

Is that which was deemed to be of so fundamental a nature as to be written into the Constitution to endure for all times to be the sport of shifting winds of doctrine?

~Felix Frankfurter

After all, advocates, including advocates for States, are like managers of pugilistic and election contestants in that they have a propensity for claiming everything.

~Felix Frankfurter

No court can make time stand still.

~Felix Frankfurter

One is entitled to say without qualification that the correlation between prior judicial experience and fitness for the Supreme Court is zero.

~Felix Frankfurter

The eternal struggle in the law between constancy and change is largely a struggle between history and reason, between past reason and present needs.

~Felix Frankfurter

There is no inevitability in history except as men make it.

~Felix Frankfurter

I came into the world a Jew, and although I did not live my life entirely as a Jew, I think it is fitting that I should leave as a Jew. I don't want to ... turn my back on a great and noble heritage.

~Felix Frankfurter

Of compelling consideration is the fact that words acquire scope and function from the history of events which they summarize.

~Felix Frankfurter

Morals are three-quarters manners.

~Felix Frankfurter

Liberty of thought soon shrivels without freedom of expression. Nor can truth be pursued in an atmosphere hostile to the endeavor or under dangers which are hazarded only by heroes.

~Felix Frankfurter

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