

William Rehnquist

Quotes

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The 'wall of separation between church and state' is a metaphor based on bad history, a metaphor which has proved useless as a guide to judging. It should be frankly and explicitly abandoned.

~William Rehnquist

I realize that it is an unpopular and unhumanitarian position, for which I have been excoriated by 'liberal' colleagues, but I think Plessy v. Ferguson was right and should be re-affirmed.

~William Rehnquist

We start with first principles. The Constitution creates a Federal Government of enumerated powers.

~William Rehnquist

It is always possible for the court to overreach its proper bounds and perhaps declare a lot of laws unconstitutional and frustrate the will of the majority in a way that it ought not be frustrated.

~William Rehnquist

Conservatives are those who worship dead radicals.

~William Rehnquist

The Equal Rights Amendment would "turn holy wedlock into holy deadlock."

~William Rehnquist

Somewhere "out there," beyond the walls of the courthouse, run currents and tides of public opinion which lap at the courtroom door.

~William Rehnquist

The Constitution requires that Congress treat similarly situated persons similarly, not that it engages in gestures of superficial equality.

~William Rehnquist

The "wall of separation between church and State" is a metaphor based on bad history.

~William Rehnquist

The laws will not be silent in time of war but they'll speak with a somewhat different voice.

~William Rehnquist

If you could say of any one individual that the court as an institution is the length and shadow of that individual, surely it would be John Marshall.

~William Rehnquist

Pregnancy is of course confined to women, but it is in other ways significantly different from the typical covered disease or disability.

~William Rehnquist

I may not be able to define pornography but I know it when I see it.

~William Rehnquist

[I]f we assume a liberty interest but nevertheless say that, even assuming a liberty interest, a state can prohibit it entirely, that would be rather a conundrum.

~William Rehnquist

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