

George D. Cary, Register 1971-1973

George D. Cary was appointed Register of Copyrights, effective September 1, 1971, succeeding Abraham L. Kaminstein. During the 24 years of Mr. Cary's service in the Copyright Office prior to being named Register, he was successively copyright attorney, assistant chief of the examining division, principal legal advisor, general counsel, and, beginning in 1961, deputy Register.

Born in St. Louis, Missouri, on June 7, 1911, Mr. Cary was educated in the public schools of St. Louis and Birmingham, Alabama, and received a bachelor of science degree in economics from the Wharton School of Finance of the University of Pennsylvania in 1932. In 1938, he received a doctor of jurisprudence degree from the George Washington University and, in 1942, a master of laws degree from Georgetown University. Mr. Cary was an amateur musician as a young man. Also, in earlier years, he was an enthusiastic flyer and held a civilian pilot's license.

During World War II, Mr. Cary served as an officer in the Navy for over four years and later retired from the Naval Reserve with the rank of captain. He came to the Copyright Office in 1947. Before and during his tenure as Register, Mr. Cary's activities spanned several fields, including legal, legislative, administrative, and international affairs. Mr. Cary was a principal author of the U.S. government's *amicus curiae* brief in the case of *Mazer v. Stein*, 347 U.S. 201 (1954), in which the Supreme Court upheld the copyrightability of sculptures used as lamp bases, for which the Copyright Office had made registrations. Mr. Cary figured prominently in the Copyright Office's efforts that led to the general revision of the copyright law. He is the author of many articles on copyright law appearing in journals in the United States and abroad. Mr. Cary lectured extensively and was professorial lecturer in copyright law at the National Law Center of the George Washington University.

Mr. Cary retired on March 9, 1973, and later served as a commissioner on the National Commission on New Technological Uses of Copyrighted Works (CONTU) and as a trustee of the Copyright Society of the U.S.A. He died in May 1987.

