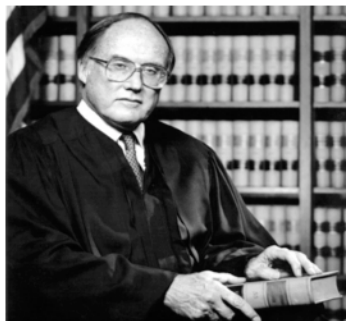




Spotlight On Justice



THE LATE U.S. SUPREME COURT CHIEF JUSTICE WILLIAM H. REHNQUIST ON THE RIGHT TO CIVIL JURY TRIAL



The right to trial by jury in civil cases is a right “so fundamental and sacred to the citizen, whether guaranteed by the Constitution or provided by statute, [it] should be jealously guarded....”

“[T]hose who oppose the use of juries in civil trials seem to ignore [that] the founders of our Nation considered the right of trial by jury in civil cases an important bulwark against tyranny and corruption, a safeguard too precious to be left to the whim of the sovereign, or, it might be added, to that of the judiciary.”

“The guarantees of the Seventh Amendment [right to civil jury trial] will prove burdensome in some instances ... but, as with other provisions in the Bill of Rights, the onerous nature of the protection is no license for contracting the rights secured by the Amendment.”



Source:
Parklane Hosiery Co. Inc. vs. Shore, 439 U.S. 322 (1979) (Rehnquist dissenting).

Center for
Justice &
Democracy

www.centerjd.org

CENTER FOR JUSTICE
DEMOCRACY
CJ&D