

Fall 2015

Biography of Tom Towe

Tom Towe

Evan Barrett

Executive Producer, ebarrett@mtech.edu

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THOMAS E. TOWE

(Biographical Data)

EDUCATION:

Earlham College (B.A.)
University of Paris (foreign study)
University of Montana (LL.B.)
Georgetown University (LL.M.)
University of Michigan (Candidate S.J.D.)

FAMILY:

Wife, Ruth, and two sons, Jamie and Kristofer

LEGISLATOR:

Montana House of Representatives: 1971, 1973 & 1974 Sessions
Montana Senate: 1974, 1977, 1979, 1981, 1983, 1985, 1991 & 1993 Sessions
Committees:
Labor (Chairman, 1993-94; Vice Chairman, 1991)
Select Committee on Workers' Compensation (Chairman, 1993)
Taxation (1975-1987, 1991-94)(Chairman, 1985)
State Administration Committee (Chairman, 1977)
Judiciary (1975-1987, 1991-94)(Chairman, 1975)
Revenue Oversight (1977-1987, 1991-94)(Chairman 1981-83)
Conference Committee, House Bill 667 - School Foundation Program (Chairman, 1993)
Many others.

GOVERNOR'S APPOINTMENTS;

Chairman, Montana State Parks and Recreation Board, 2013-Present
Member, Montana Coal Board, 2013-Present

RECENT ACTIVITIES:

Lecturer, Bashkire State University Law School, Ufa, Russia (2011)

Extensive Travel in China, Argentina, Uruguay, Guatemala, Panama, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Austria, Germany, England, Norway, and Mexico.

PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE:

Raised on a farm

4-H baby beef projects during childhood

Military Lawyer (Captain, Army JAGC)

Extensive Appellate Court Martial work while in the Army

Extensive Banking experience as former officer & director of 13 banks

Occasional Lecturer at Rocky Mountain College & Eastern Montana College (now Montana State University-Billings)

An Attorney practicing law in Billings, Montana since 1967

Began the law firm of Towe, Ball, Enright, Mackey & Sommerfeld in 1967

Chairman of the Board, First National Bank & Trust, Wibaux, Montana, 1987 to 1992

AUTHOR OF VARIOUS LEGAL PUBLICATIONS:

Personal Jurisdiction Over Nonresidents & Montana's New Rule 4B, Montana Law Review, 1962

Unavoidable Accident Instruction Held Reversible Error in Negligence Actions (chapter in a book edited by Melvin Belli, 1962)

Criminal Pre-Trial Procedure in France, Tulane Law Review, 1964

Fundamental Rights in the Soviet Union: A Comparative Approach, Pennsylvania Law Review, 1967)

Trust and Individual Rights: A Comparison of United States and French Pre-Trial Procedures (co-author), American Criminal Law Quarterly, 1974

Natural law and the Ninth Amendment, Pepperdine Law Review, 1975

A Growing Awareness of Privacy in America, Montana Law Review, 1976

ORGANIZATIONS:

*Our Montana (formerly Montana State Parks Association), Founding Member & Board of Directors (1994 - present)

Institute for Peace Studies (affiliated with Rocky Mtn. College), Board Member 1994-2013

Youth Dynamics, Board Member (1989 - 1996)
Zoo Montana, Board of Directors (1983 - 2001)
*Co-Chairman, Montanans for the Coal Trust
Alternatives, Inc., Board of Directors (1978 to 1997) (Chairman, 1986)
Democratic National Advisory Panel on Promoting Economic Growth and Opportunity,
Member (1981-1984)
Youth Justice Council, Member (1981-83)
Rimrock Guidance Foundation, Board Member (1975-80)
Advisory Committee, Montana Crime Control Board, Member (1973-78)
District Youth Guidance Home of Billings, Board Member (1971-77)
Regional Community Services for the Developmentally Disabled, Board Member
(1975-77)
*Yellowstone County Bar Association, Member
*Montana Bar Association, Member
American Hereford Association, Member
Billings Breakfast Optimists, Former Member
*Billings Chamber of Commerce, Member
Volunteers of America - Billings Chapter, Former Board Member
Montana Consumer Affairs Council, Former Board Member
Prairie Tower, Inc., Former Board Member
Concern, Inc., Former Board Member
*Billings Rotary Club, Member since 2000

*Denotes current membership

POLITICAL BACKGROUND:

Democratic Nominee in 1976 for the Second Congressional District of Montana
Coordinating Chairman, Montana Delegation, 1974, for the Democratic Mini-Convention in
Kansas City
Chairman, Montana Delegation, 1972 Democratic National Convention in Miami
Montana Delegation, 1968 Democratic National Convention in Chicago
Montana Delegation, 1984 Democratic National Convention in San Francisco (Alternate)
State Democratic Executive Committee, 1969-71
Yellowstone County Democratic Executive Committee, 1969-73
Convener, Democratic Study Group (1983 - present)
Precinct Committeeman, 1967 to present
University of Montana Young Democrats, Treasurer (1961)

RECOGNIZED LEADER (listed in):

Marquis Who's Who in American Law
Marquis Who's Who in the West, 18th Edition, 1982-83, and subsequent editions
Marquis Who's Who in Executives & Professionals, 1997-98
Marquis Who's Who in America
Marquis Who's Who in the World
Who's Who in American Politics, 1974

Who's Who Among Authors and Journalists
Who's Who in Government, 1975-76
America's Registry of Outstanding Professionals, 2001-02 Edition
Community Leaders and Noteworthy Americans, 7th Edition
Personalities of the West and Midwest, 1971
Dictionary of International Biography, 1975
National Registry of Who's Who - Acceptance 3/28/00 - Life Member - #136222
National Registry of Who's Who in Executives and Professionals - 2000
National Directory of Who's Who, December 17, 1996
Nationwide Registers Who's Who in Executives & Business, 2001
Strathmore Who's Who, Honored Member, Millennium Edition, 2000-2001
Strathmore Who's Who, 2002 Edition
Contemporary Notables
International Who's Who of Public Service, 2000
International Directory of Distinguished Leadership, 1986
Two Thousand Notable Americans, 1986/1987; 3rd Ed. 1994
Biography of the Year 1986
Men of Achievement
Personalities of America
Personalities of the Americas
International Who's Who of Contemporary Achievement
International Who's Who - 1994
Cambridge Who's Who, Business & Professional Leaders
International Who's Who Historical Society Appointment 2006-2007
Continental Whose Who 2006

AWARDS & HONORS:

- Named as one of 12 state officials (only 2 legislators) throughout the United States as "Stars of the States" in July, 1983 issue of Washington Monthly magazine.
- Named as one of the 10 best state and local officials from throughout the United States by Mother Jones, February/March 1984 issue.
- Honored by the Montana Democratic Party at the Mansfield-Metcalf Dinner - March 7, 1987.
- Listed as #26 by the "Missoulian" in 100 Montanans, Our pick of the most influential figures of the 20th Century, 2000.

OTHERS:

Frequent lecturer and speaker on Coal Taxes and Resource Tax Trust Funds; Appeared before a committee of the Pennsylvania Legislature (coal tax); Appeared before the North Dakota legislature (coal tax); Appeared before a committee of the Kentucky Legislature; Honorary Kentucky Colonel; Speaker at Governor's (Alaska) Conference on Resource Taxation; Former Tribal Counsel, Crow Tribe of Indians; and Chief Negotiator on coal lease with Arch Minerals; Expert witness in Crow Tribe v. Montana; Former Tribal Counsel, Northern Cheyenne Tribe of Indians; Former Counsel for United Mine Workers, Oil Atomic and Chemical Workers, and other Unions; Appointed as an election supervisor for Labors International Union of North America; Quoted in many newspapers and magazines throughout the United States, including the Smithsonian magazine and an editorial in the Wall Street Journal. Featured in the following magazines: Forbes magazine; BusinessWeek, and Christian Science Monitor.

Areas of Legal Interest and Experience:

Employment Law

Taxation, including Tax Court Litigation

Estate Planning and Trusts

Farm and Ranch Litigation

Business Organizations

Commercial Litigation

Banking Law

Indian Law

Complex Multistate Litigation

Class Action Suits



