

Gideon v. Wainwright / Newspaper Analysis

<p>Appointed Attorneys . . .</p> <h3>Fight By Florida Man Brings Change In Law</h3> <p>PANAMA CITY, Fla. (UPI)—Clarence Earl Gideon went off to prison two years and two days ago, convicted of breaking into a poolroom but convinced his poverty had cost him a fair trial.</p> <p>Today, because he kept fighting in a prison cell for his belief that he had the right to a lawyer even though he couldn't pay for one, Gideon is free. And thousands of inmates of prisons in Florida and other states have the hope of new trials, with lawyers to defend them.</p> <p>When he walked out of circuit court here Monday, the thin, graying Gideon, 52, left behind in his legal path a landmark decision of the U.S. Supreme Court, a new public defender law for Florida, and his own acquittal at a new trial.</p> <p>A jury deliberated about 65 minutes after the one-day trial before freeing Gideon of breaking into a poolroom here on June 3, 1961.</p> <p>"This is the happiest moment</p>	<p>of my life," said the bespectacled Gideon, who began his legal fight alone but had the backing of attorneys general in 22 states when his case reached the federal high bench.</p> <p>Asked For Attorney</p> <p>Gideon, whose wife has divorced him and whose children are in foster homes, was convicted on Aug. 4, 1961, and sentenced to five years in prison. He had asked the court then for an attorney, but state law provided court-appointed attorneys only in capital crimes and some special cases.</p> <p>"Before the trial, I hadn't thought much about it. I just took it for granted I would get a lawyer. I thought it was required under the Constitution," Gideon said Monday.</p> <p>In Florida's state prison at Raiford, Gideon began his legal fight. He was able to find only a few law books in the prison library, but among the inmates he found men who had been through involved court cases, and some who</p>
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Source: *The Chronicle*. (Pascagoula, Miss.), 07 Aug. 1963. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress. <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn87065526/1963-08-07/ed-1/seq-11/>.

Observe

1. What text do you notice first?
2. What do you learn just from the titles and subtitles?

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3. Where and when was this article published? What is the significance?

Reflect

4. What can you tell about what was important at the time and place of publication?
5. What can you tell about the point of view of the people who wrote and published this article?
6. What do you learn about the importance of the decision in *Gideon v. Wainwright* (1963) from this article?

Question

7. What do you still wonder about this source?