

APPENDIX 2

KEY DATES IN THE LIFE OF JOHN L. HILL JR.

October 9, 1923	Born in Breckenridge, Texas, to John Luke Hill and Jessie George Hoover Hill; the family included a sister, Laverne, who was born in 1922
1930	Attended first grade in Wink, Texas, public school
1931	Family moved to Kilgore
1940	Graduated from Kilgore High School; enrolled in Kilgore Junior College and won a national collegiate debate championship with partner Charles Wellborn
September 1941	Enrolled in University of Texas
April 6, 1944	Lost a race for University of Texas Student Association president to Mac Wallace by 7 percent of the vote
May 1944	Graduated from the University of Texas and commissioned as a lieutenant (junior grade) in the U.S. Navy
December 15, 1944	Commanded U.S. Navy landing craft during amphibious landing on Mindoro Island, Philippines
April 22, 1945	Commanded U.S. Navy landing craft during the battle for Mindanao Island, Philippines
January 1946	Completed Navy service, returned to law school
April 4, 1946	Married Elizabeth Ann “Bitsy” Graham in her hometown of Olney, Texas
1947	Graduated from University of Texas School of Law, admitted to the State Bar of Texas, began practicing in Houston with Albert Jones and Shirley Helm
1951	Formed the law firm of Hill, Kronzer and Abraham with two University of Texas law school friends, Jim Kronzer and Frank Abraham
1955	Elected president of the Texas Association of Plaintiff Attorneys

April 1958	Published in the Texas Bar Journal an article entitled “Effective Techniques of Jury Selection and Jury Argument in Personal Injury Cases” that became a classic primer for trial attorneys
April 10, 1962	Won a \$250,000 award for a Houston woman whose husband was one of thirty-four persons killed in a 1959 Braniff airliner crash, among the largest jury awards in the nation, vaulting Hill to prominence as one of Texas’ top trial attorneys and earning millions for his law firm for representing other crash victims.
March–November 1964	Harris County campaign manager for Governor John Connally’s reelection bid
1965	Left Hill, Brown, Kronzer and Abraham to form a solo practitioner firm
March 12, 1966	Sworn in as Texas secretary of state, appointed by Governor John Connally; served until January 22, 1968, when he resigned to run for governor
May 4, 1968	Lost primary race for governor, placing sixth in the ten-candidate field seeking the Democratic Party nomination; returned to Houston and reopened a solo practitioner law office
February 7, 1972	Filed as a candidate for attorney general in the Democratic primary
May 6, 1972	Won the Democratic primary nomination as attorney general with 50.1 percent of the 1,994,048 ballots cast, defeating two candidates, including the incumbent, Crawford Martin; ran unopposed in the general election.
January 1, 1973	Sworn in as attorney general
November 5, 1974	Won reelection, this time to a four-year term, after running unopposed in the Democratic primary and the general election
November 5, 1974	Argument before the U.S. Supreme Court in a ballot access dispute, <i>American Party of Texas v. White</i>

June 18, 1975	Argument before the Texas Supreme Court successfully opposing Southwestern Bell's challenge of his authority to block a rate increase for intrastate long-distance telephone calls
January 19, 1976	Argument before the U.S. Supreme Court, to settle the seaward boundary between Louisiana and Texas
March 30, 1976	Argument before the U.S. Supreme Court, successfully defending the Texas death penalty law, <i>Jurek v. Texas</i>
September 19, 1977	News conferences in Dallas, Austin, Houston, and San Antonio kicking off campaign for governor
December 7, 1977	Argument before the U.S. Supreme Court protesting federal energy regulators' efforts to control natural gas sales, <i>Southland Royalty v. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission</i> ; he argued the case again on April 17, 1978, when the court ordered it reargued
March 29, 1978	Argument before the U.S. Supreme Court opposing California's attempt to claim Howard Hughes as a resident for the purpose of assessing taxes against the Hughes estate
May 6, 1978	Won the Democratic Party nomination for governor, defeating four opponents, including incumbent Dolph Briscoe and former governor Preston Smith, obtaining 51.4 percent of the 1,812,896 votes cast
November 7, 1978	Lost the general election vote for governor to Republican William P. Clements Jr., with 49.9 percent of the 2,369,699 votes cast
January 1, 1979	Joined the law firm of Hughes, Luce, Hennessy, Smith & Castle, renamed Hughes & Hill
May 5, 1980	Won a \$19 million federal court judgment for Ross Perot's Electronic Data Systems Corp. against the government of Iran for breach of a computer services contract
November 6, 1984	Won election as chief justice of the Texas Supreme Court
January 5, 1985	Sworn in as chief justice of the Texas Supreme Court
1986	Formed the Committee of 100 to examine judicial selection and judicial campaign financing in Texas

February 9, 1987	State of the Judiciary address to a joint session of the Texas Legislature in which Hill became the first chief justice to propose the state change its system of selecting judges to an appointive system; the proposal was opposed by most other Supreme Court justices and failed to pass the legislature.
August 25, 1987	Announced his resignation as chief justice effective January 1, 1988, with plans to focus his energies on replacing partisan election of judges with a system in which judges are appointed on merit; the dramatic action was widely applauded by newspaper editorial writers who supported Hill's accompanying plea for reform of the special interest group funding of Supreme Court campaigns. He formed an advocacy group, the Committee for Merit Election, and a political action committee, Merit PAC, to support candidates interested in judicial reform.
December 6, 1987	During an interview with Mike Wallace, Hill criticized lawyer-financed judicial elections in a nationally televised CBS <i>60 Minutes</i> exposé entitled "Is Justice for Sale in Texas?" that highlighted Texas justices' acceptance of campaign contributions from law firms and litigants appearing before the court. Republican challengers successfully used excerpts from the program to challenge plaintiff attorney-supported Democratic Texas Supreme Court justices in 1988, winning their first three seats in more than one hundred years.
January 1, 1988	Joined the law firm of Liddell, Sapp & Zivley, which was renamed Liddell, Sapp, Zivley & Hill
1988	Announced his support for a Republican, Tom Phillips, in general election balloting for chief justice of the Texas Supreme Court. Democratic partisans vigorously protested his support of a Republican. Phillips, a strong advocate of Hill's proposals for merit selection of judges to replace judicial elections, won his race.
1991	Named a Distinguished Alumnus of the University of Texas
January 2, 1997	Appointed by Governor George W. Bush to the Texas Lottery Commission; served until February 1999

January 1, 1999	Hill's law firm merged with Locke Purnell Rain Harrell, renamed Locke Liddell & Sapp
2003	Formed another judicial reform organization, Make Texas Proud, to promote an appointment and retention process for selecting Texas judges. The Texas Senate approved legislation (S.B. 794) carrying out the organization's goal of gubernatorial appointment of the Supreme Court and Court of Criminal Appeals judges, but the bill died in the House.
April 2, 2004	Dedication of the John L. Hill Trial Advocacy Center at the University of Texas School of Law
August 2005	Retired from Locke Liddell & Sapp
October 2005	Joined the law firm of Winstead Sechrest & Minick
July 13, 2007	Governor Rick Perry, Attorney General Greg Abbott, Texas Supreme Court Justice Wallace Jefferson, U.S. Senator John Cornyn, and University of Texas at Austin President William Powers Jr. were among hundreds of Hill's colleagues, friends, and family to pay tribute to him following his death on July 9, 2007