

Randall v. Brigham

74 U.S. (7 Wall.) 523 (1868)

Supreme Court of the United States

Issue: Early articulation of absolute judicial immunity

Holding on Judicial Immunity

An early Supreme Court statement that judges of general jurisdiction are not civilly liable for their judicial acts, even acts in excess of jurisdiction, absent (perhaps) malice or corruption. A precursor to *Bradley v. Fisher*.

Key Quotations (verbatim)

“[Judges of superior or general jurisdiction] are not liable to civil actions for their judicial acts, even when such acts are in excess of their jurisdiction, unless perhaps where the acts, in excess of jurisdiction, are done maliciously or corruptly. This doctrine is as old as the law, and its maintenance is essential to the impartial administration of justice.”

— *Randall v. Brigham*, 74 U.S. (7 Wall.) 523, 536 (1868).

Full opinion (authoritative source): <https://www.courtlistener.com/opinion/88036/randall-v-brigham/>

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