

## Cases of Historical Interest In the Southern District of New York

### **Galella v. Onassis (The “Paparazzi” Case)**

Judge Irving Ben Cooper

Ron Galella, a photographer, initially sued Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis and three Secret Services agents for false arrest, malicious prosecution and interference with his photography business, and those claims were dismissed on summary judgment by Judge Edward C. McLean. Mrs. Onassis and her daughter then sought and were granted a temporary restraining order by Judge Irving Ben Cooper prohibiting Galella from “harassing, alarming, blocking the path, or touching the person of Mrs. Onassis and her children.” Galella was held in civil contempt for violating the order. After a six-week trial at which 25 witnesses testified, Judge Cooper granted a permanent injunction against Galella. The scope of the injunction was modified on appeal. Former S.D.N.Y. Judge Simon H. Rifkind and future S.D.N.Y. Judge Lewis A. Kaplan represented Mrs. Onassis.

353 F. Supp. 196 (S.D.N.Y. 1972)



Artist: Aggie Kenny



225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
1789-2014