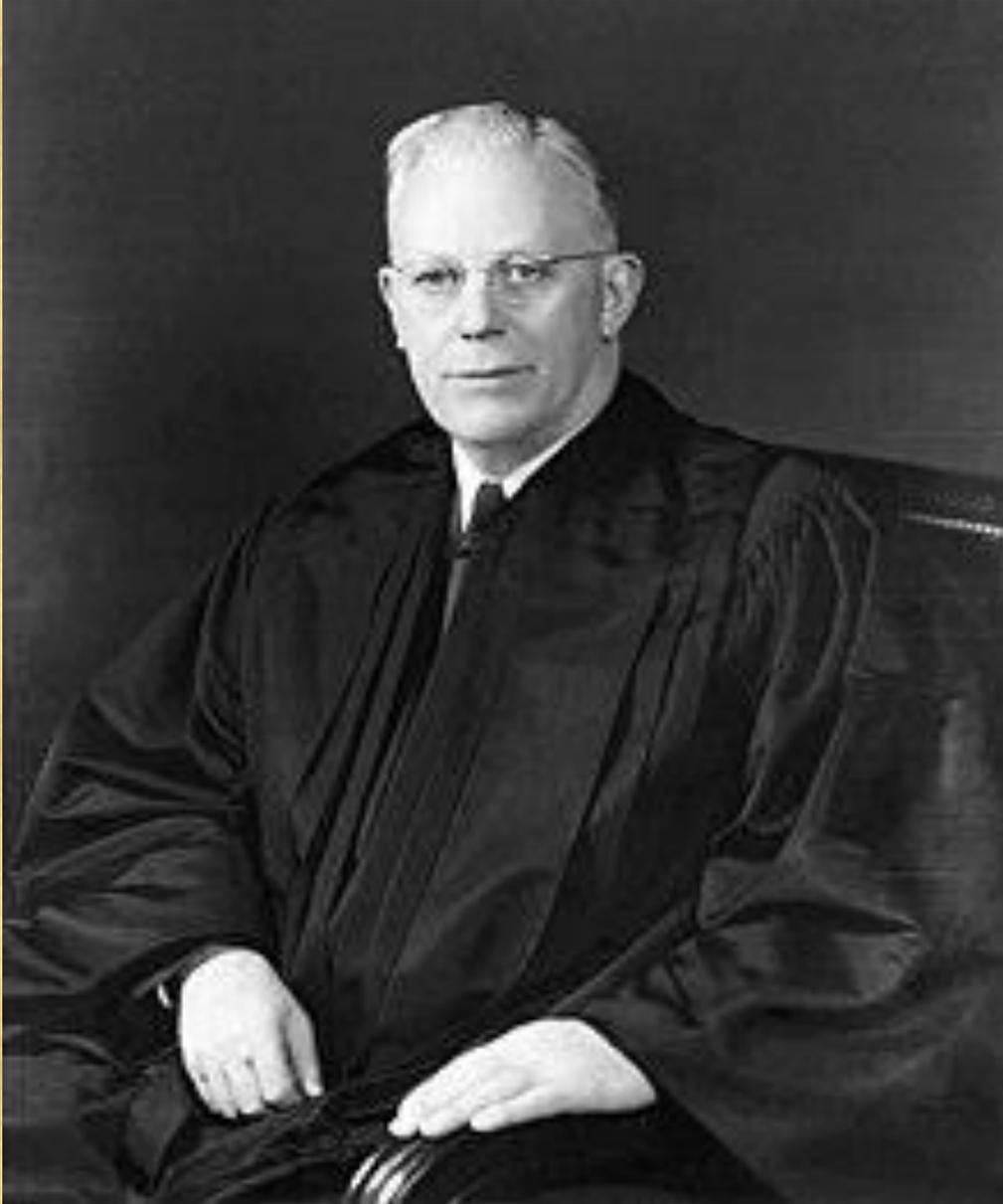


# **The Warren Court**

# The Liberal Court

- Beginning with the 1954 landmark decision ***Brown v. Board of Education***, which ruled school segregation unconstitutional, the Court under Chief Justice Earl Warren took an activist stance on the leading issues of the day.
- The **Warren Court** banned prayer in public schools and declared state-required loyalty oaths unconstitutional.
- It limited the power of communities to censor books and films and said that free speech included the wearing of black armbands to school by antiwar students.



**Earl Warren - 14th Chief  
Justice of the United  
States from 1953 – 1969.**

- In a key series of decisions, the Warren Court addressed the issue of **reapportionment**, or the way in which states redraw election districts based on the changing number of people in them.
- By 1960, about 80 percent of Americans lived in cities and suburbs. However, many states had failed to change their congressional districts to reflect this development; in some states voters in rural areas had more representation—and also more power—than those in urban areas.

# Rights of the Accused

- The Warren Court expanded the rights of people accused of crimes.
- In ***Mapp v. Ohio (1961)***, the Court ruled that evidence seized illegally could not be used in state courts.
- In ***Gideon v. Wainwright (1963)***, the justices required criminal courts to provide free legal counsel to those who could not afford it.
- In ***Escobedo v. Illinois (1964)***, the justices ruled that an accused person has a right to have a lawyer present during police questioning.

- In ***Miranda v. Arizona (1966)*** the court ruled that all suspects must be read their rights before questioning
- These rulings greatly divided public opinion. Liberals praised the decisions, arguing that they placed necessary limits on police power and protected the right of all citizens to a fair trial. Conservatives, however, bitterly criticized the Court. They claimed that *Mapp* and *Miranda* benefited criminal suspects and severely limited the power of the police to investigate crimes.