

## Carolina Panorama's Legal spotlight

### Jack B. Swerling: South Carolina's one-man "Dream Team"

Jack B. Swerling is an active trial and appellate lawyer, author, and lecturer in the field of Criminal Law. Although born and raised in New Jersey, Swerling received his Bachelor of Arts Degree from Clemson in 1968 and his Juris Doctor Degree from the University of South Carolina in 1973. He has served Columbia's citizens in need of legal defense for more than 20 years and is admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court, U.S. Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit, and the U.S. District Court of South Carolina.

Swerling has a reputation as one who stands up for the rights of the accused. Although there is an ongoing battle in the legislature to restrict the rights of the accused, Swerling still believes in the American adage: "Innocent until proven guilty."

Swerling's successful track record in criminal defense might lead one to believe he is a member of that elite category of lawyers who picks cases based on the financial compensation. But he sees his role in a different light. "I'll still take a case pro bono if it interests me. There is a great respon-



**Jack B. Swerling**

Columbia's top defense attorney  
sibility people have to stand up to the establishment," says Swerling.

Of course, this established attorney cannot take every case that comes into his office, but money does not seem to be the deciding factor in his consideration of a case. Swerling believes an individual deserves proper attention when he or she faces

accusations by the government, and he intends to do what he can to uphold the rights of that individual. "Everybody is treated the same, no matter whether it is a big case or a little case. The quality of representation in this office has nothing to do with the ability to pay the fee," says Swerling.

The firm consists of lawyer associate Sandy Gasser, two paralegal associates, two secretaries, and his own private investigator. He is one of the few lawyers in town who keeps his own private investigator on staff to look into the affairs of his clients. Furthermore, Swerling stays in contact with other law professionals in the community. "In every aspect of the firm, from the initial intake of the investigation to the legal issues, we provide first class service," says Swerling.

While the primary focus of the firm is criminal defense, they welcome any questions and will not hesitate to direct you towards other competent legal council if they think a case could be better served elsewhere.