

Supreme Court justices among ABA speakers

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United States Supreme Court Justices Harry A. Blackmun, John Paul Stevens and Lewis F. Powell Jr. are among a score of prominent government officials scheduled to speak during the coming week at the American Bar Association's 1979 convention.

Beginning today and running through Aug. 15, the convention is expected to draw 8,000 lawyers, many of whom will participate in discussions on issues ranging from the death penalty to treaties with Indian tribes to cameras in the courtroom.

In addition to the three Supreme Court justices, convention programs will feature Robert Strauss, the former Dallas lawyer and national Democratic Party chairman who is now serving as a roving ambassador to the Middle East; Benjamin Civiletti, recently confirmed U. S. Attorney General; FBI Director William H. Webster; White House inflation advisor Alfred Kahn; CIA Director Stansfield Turner; Sara Weddington, spe-

cial assistant to President Carter; and former Watergate special prosecutor Leon Jaworski.

Several regionally prominent lawyers and judicial officials also are to be among the convention's speakers. They include Houston trial lawyer Richard "Racehorse" Haynes, U. S. Dist. Judge Patrick Higginbotham of Dallas and U. S. Dist. Judge Eldon Mahon of Fort Worth.

One of the scheduled highlights of the convention is a program on the effects of allowing television cameras in courtrooms, a practice now permitted in nine states not including Texas.

Two courtrooms in the Dallas County Courthouse are to be used Sunday to stage a mock Supreme Court hearing and a mock criminal trial, both with cameras present. The judge in the mock criminal trial is to be Judge Higginbotham.

Television monitors will transmit the criminal trial proceedings to an audience gathered in an adjacent courtroom. Members of that audience will be allowed to move back and

See ABA on Page 5

ABA convention to begin

ABA — From Page One

forth between the spectators' room and the room where the mock trial is taking place. The setup is designed to give the audience a chance to compare observations of a live trial with the experience of viewing one on a television screen.

During the eight-day convention, the ABA's House of Delegates is expected to vote on several proposals regarding controversial legal issues. Any proposal approved by the delegates becomes official ABA policy and

frequently becomes the focal point of lobbying efforts in Congress.

The proposals to be faced by the House of Delegates this week include:

- ✓ Support for a bill now in Congress that would create "rational criteria for the imposition of the sentence of death"
- ✓ A request for the federal government to "follow a policy of strict adherence to Indian treaty obligations"

✓ Backing of a bill now before Congress that would prohibit police from making what are termed "third-party" searches of people not suspected of crimes. The pending bill came in response to a Supreme Court decision that allowed police to search the files of a newspaper for information about criminal suspects.

✓ Support for a bill pending in Congress that would make computer fraud a federal offense. It is now only a state crime.