



## REHEARING & EN BANC IN THE FIFTH CIRCUIT

1



## EVEN THE GODS ARE SOMETIMES FOOLED

Até – the Greek goddess of mischief of ruin.

“[S]he walks the air above men’s heads and leads them astray.” – Homer, *Illiad*

“*Even the gods are sometimes visited by Até.*” Apollonius Rhodius, *Argonautica*

2



## WHY SHOULD I COMPLAIN?

The gods may throw a dice  
Their minds as cold as ice  
And someone way down here  
Loses some[thing] dear  
The winner takes it all  
The loser has to fall  
It's simple and it's plain  
Why should I complain?

- Abba, *The Winner Takes It All*

3

## TOPICS

- Background
- Statistics
- Isolated error –  
Panel Rehearing
- Far-reaching error –  
En Banc

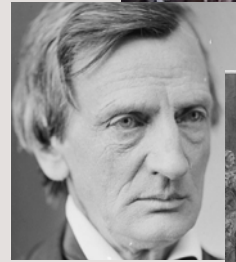


4

And you may ask yourself,  
“Well, how did I get here?”

## BACKGROUND

*From the English Chancery  
to the Fifth Circuit IOPs*



5

## EARLY ORIGINS



“Rehearing” comes the Court of Chancery in England  
– until the Chancellor affixed his seal to a decision,  
case could be reheard by his counselors ad infinitum.



Early U.S. common law courts could reconsider any  
decision until the court’s term expired.

6

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## Title search: Rehearing and En Banc Practice in the Fifth Circuit

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