

Jay Jostyn  
Revised by Ryan Ellett

Jay Jostyn was born Eugene Josten in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on December 13, 1901, and was a graduate of the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music and reportedly worked in a Milwaukee stock company with Spencer Tracy and Melvyn Douglas. He started out as a stock actor in Hollywood, and broke into radio in New York in 1936. Some of his earliest work was featured on serials including *The Life of Mary Sothern*, *Our Gal Sunday*, *Second Husband*, and *Hilltop House*. Other pre-*Mr. District Attorney* included *Bert Lytell Dramas* and *The Parker Family*.

Jostyn first took up the role of radio's *Mr. District Attorney* on October 1, 1939. Many people thought he was actually real-life crime buster Thomas E. Dewey, the racket-busting New York district attorney (and later Governor and two-time Republican candidate for president) was an inspiration for the producers of the program.

Jostyn's other radio work included an extended run on *Secret Agent K-7*, and roles on *This Small Town*, *Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch*, *the Mystery Man*, and *Famous Jury Trials*, where he played a defense lawyer with the sponsor-insistent stipulation that he never lose a case.

Jay Jostyn passed away in June 1976.

\* Various dates have been published for Jay Jostyn's birth and death; this article uses the Social Security Death Index as its source.