Eugene J. Josten (JAH-sten), known as Jay Jostyn, was born on December 13, 1901 in Millwaukee Wisconsin. He was the son of George and Mary Josten. He attended St. Joseph's parochial school, Marquette Academy, Marquette University, and the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music.

On October 17, 1928, Jostyn married Ruth Hill in Pasadena, California. She was an actress whom he met when they performed together in a play. They had two sons, Jean Charles and Jon George.

Before starting an acting carrier, Jostyn would work with a telephone company. He worked in theatrical stock companies and repertory theaters for about 6 years. In a 1975 interview, he stated that he felt it helps to develop ones acting skills. Specifically it helped him to develop his interpretation of the characters he played. By the late 1930s, he had his degree in Dramatic Arts from the University of Wisconsin. And in 1938 he was teaching Radio Drama himself.

Jostyn's career in radio began at WLW in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1936. He started as the first poetry reader for the station's late-night program called *Moon River*. And he had several lead rolls on the local shows. His wife also worked at WLW as an actress. After 2 years, he and his wife left for New York.

In 1939, *Secret Agent K-7 Returns*, a revival of an earlier show, ran for about a year. Jostyn would play Agent Z. The show also included the famous actor Walter Pidgeon.

By April of 1939, he would begin working on a show that he would be associated with for the remainder of his carrier, *Mr. District Attorney*. However, in this first show, he portrayed one of the racketeers. From 1940 until 1952, Jostyn would take the title role of the show.

He also appeared in several soap operas and other shows, often simultaneously. For a period of time, he was on many shows at the same time. The *Time Recorder* stated in the July 29, 1940 edition that Jostyn once appeared in 35 scripted shows, portraying 45 different characters, all in one week. This resulted in very long work days and work weeks. To compound this, the shows were performed live. For example, the cast of *Mr. District Attorney* would perform at 9:00 p.m. Wednesdays from the studios in New York, but would return and perform at midnight for the 9:00 p.m. West Coast broadcast transmissions.

Other interesting things about Jostyn - he was voted "the handsomest actor on Radio," by the girls of Hunter College. He would cut his own hair because he didn’t like the way the barbers would do the job. From 1939 forward, Jostyn was often seen in local court rooms and Night Court sessions, absorbing as much as he could from the real-life legal proceedings.

As television started to take hold, Jostyn would make the transition. He appeared from October 1, 1951 to June 23, 1952 in *Mr. District Attorney* its first year on television. And his courtroom research paid off in 1958, when he was cast as a sitting Judge: Judge Jay Jostyn of *Night Court*.

Jostyn would remain busy for the rest of his carrier, both on television and in movies. Jostyn would pass away from a heart ailment in Los Angeles, California on June 25, 1976. He was survived by his wife and their two sons. Jostyn was 74.

Information for this biography was taken from The Internet Movie Database, John Dunning’s The Encyclopedia of Old-Time Radio, Jay Hickerson’s Ultimate History of Network Radio Programming, and from Wikipedia. For Old Time Radio Researchers, I am your announcer, Patrick André. Thank you for listening.