

Dr. Roland Freisler (1893 - 1945)

State Secretary (Staatssekretär)
Reich Ministry of Justice



At the Wannsee Conference, Freisler represented the ministry which since the passage of the Nuremberg Laws in 1935 was principally involved in the persecution of the Jews along juridical lines. Freisler was considered a “guarantor of National Socialist convictions.” In August 1942, Freisler was appointed President of the People’s Court (*Volksgesichtshof*). In this position he and other members of the Court sentenced thousands of political opponents to death.

Born in Celle, son of an engineer. (Reformed) Protestant parental home. High school in Aachen, diploma in 1912. Study of law at the university of Kiel. Entered military service in August 1914 as an officer cadet, subsequently lieutenant. Russian prisoner of war from October 1915 to 1920. Continuation of the study of law at Jena. Doctor of law degree in 1922, and from 1924 lawyer in Kassel and member in the city parliament for the *Völkisch-Sozial Block*. Joined the Nazi Party (NSDAP) in July 1925. Member of the Prussian Diet. As of June 1933, state secretary (*Staatssekretär*) in the Prussian Ministry of Justice, member of the Prussian Council of State, and in October 1933 state secretary (*Staatssekretär*) in the newly combined Reich and Prussian Ministry of Justice. There he was primarily responsible for personnel questions, penal legislation, and execution of sentences. Perished in Berlin during an air raid on February 3, 1945.

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