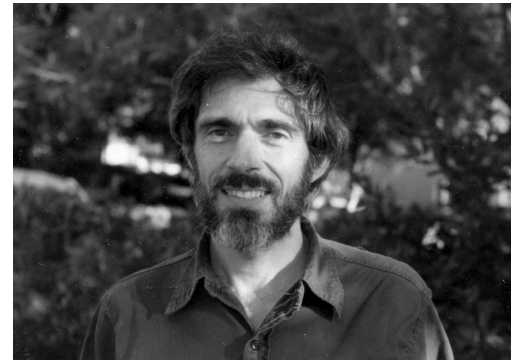


**T**he *Prosecution of Professor Chandler Davis* tells the true tale of a mathematician who found himself —at the height of the McCarthy era— taking an involuntary break from chalking equations to sit opposite a row of self-righteous anti-Communist congressmen. Courageously asserting the First Amendment to confront a system rapidly descending into fascism, Davis testified before the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC). He became one of a small number of left wingers who served time for contempt of Congress.

In this fascinating and disturbing narrative, author Steve Batterson takes a deep dive into extant archival records generated by the FBI, HUAC, the University of Michigan, and repositories holding the papers of former Supreme Court justices. Focusing on the seemingly conflicting Supreme Court decisions on labor leader John Watkins and Vassar College Psychology instructor Lloyd Barenblatt, he examines the plights of six faculty and graduate students at the University of Michigan—including three future members of the National Academy of Sciences—whose life’s work was impacted by the anticommunist actions of a wide range of personnel at the University of Michigan. In particular, he examines the role played in the trial by Felix Frankfurter, a longtime Associate Justice on the Supreme Court, close advisor of Franklin D. Roosevelt, and co-founder of the ACLU. In the process, Batterson exposes the ways that McCarthy’s righteous emissaries relied on all kinds of institutions in 1950s America—from Hollywood studios to universities—to sabotage the careers of anyone with a trace of “Red.”



Title: *The Prosecution of Professor  
Chandler Davis*

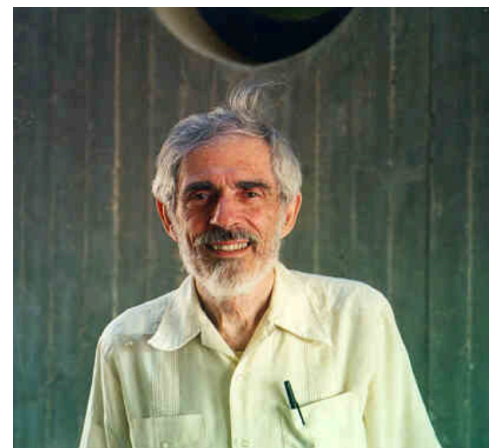
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**Steve Batterson** is professor emeritus of mathematics and computer science at Emory University. He received his PhD in mathematics from Northwestern University in 1976, and soon embarked upon mathematical research at Emory, the Institute for Advanced Study, Boston University, and the University of California at Berkeley. In the 1990s he wrote a biography of the Fields Medal winner Stephen Smale, followed by two other books and several articles on the history of mathematics.