

Q38 – What is the name of the President of the United States now?

DOUGLAS GINSBURG, Federal Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals, D.C. Circuit:

The president of the United States now is Donald Trump.

But what's in a name? It's hard to imagine anyone calling Thomas Jefferson Tommy or James Madison Jim. But presidents today tend to be more informal than their predecessors.

Clinton: "I, William Jefferson Clinton--" President Clinton went by his nickname – Bill. Carter: "It's a pleasure for me to be back out here--" James Earl Carter – a southerner like Bill Clinton – went by his nickname, too, Jimmy. And Ronald Reagan was known to friends as Ron, as was Donald Trump known as Don.

Ford: "I, Gerald R. Ford –" Other presidential nicknames include Gerry for Gerald Ford. Jack for John Fitzgerald Kennedy. Teddy for Theodore Roosevelt. And of course, Abe for Abraham Lincoln – also known as Honest Abe. Of course, Joseph R. Biden is just plain Joe.

And Dwight Eisenhower's campaign cleverly used his nickname, Ike. Song: "You like Ike, I like Ike, everybody likes Ike, for president. Hang out the banner, beat the drum, we'll take Ike to Washington."

Announcer: "Franklin Delano Roosevelt" Some presidents became known by their initials: FDR for Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Kennedy: "To preserve the human race." JFK for Kennedy again. Johnson: "The United States took a major initiative towards ..." And LBJ for Lyndon Baines Johnson. Announcer: "Harry S. Truman took the presidential oath." Harry Truman's middle initial – S – didn't stand for anything. His parents couldn't agree after which grandfather to name him – Shipp or Solomon. So the S was a compromise.

The president with the most American name? That's easy. Ulysses Simpson Grant, known to all as U.S. Grant.