

**MEMORIAL**

**Chester L. Caldwell**  
(1864 – 1935)

**Ramsey County Bar Association**

*April 20, 1935*

## MEMORIAL FOR CHESTER L. CALDWELL

Saint Paul, Minnesota.

Two outstanding lawyers, both members of the Ramsey County Bar, were directly and personally responsible for the creation and continued life of the Minnesota State Bar Association. To these two individuals the credit must be given for that influential power which has and is now accomplishing so much for the Minnesota lawyers. These two men are Charles W. Farnham who died about six years ago, and Chester L. Caldwell who departed this life January 6, 1935.

Chester, as he was affectionately known by every lawyer in the State of Minnesota, personified the Minnesota Bar Association. It is hard to think of the Association functioning without his presence and his help. He was a regular attendant at all its meetings and was an essential part of the organization.

The position which he had attained in the Association and in the regard of his fellow members was the result not only of his professional ability and high personal character, but also of over thirty years of tireless industry in the work of the organization. He will be sadly missed but the good he has done for the profession through the Association will live long after him.

Mr. Caldwell was elected Secretary of the Minnesota State Bar Association in 1913 and served continuously in that capacity until 1931, and in 1932 he was its Vice President. In 1933 the Association elected him its President. Mr. Caldwell died shortly after finishing his span of life for three score years and ten. He had practiced law in St. Paul for thirty-one years.

Born in Philadelphia in 1864 Mr. Caldwell attended the Treemount Seminary at Norristown, Pa., and later St. John's Academy at Annapolis. After graduating from St. John's, he entered the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis.

Upon receiving his commission he was stationed at Kittery, Maine, as a naval engineer. While there he married Miss Lillian C. Grant of

Portsmouth, Mass, who predeceased him in 1920. There were no children.

Soon after his marriage Mr. Caldwell left the naval service and came to St. Paul as a member of the engineering staff of the then Chicago & Burlington railroad. Later he joined the staff of the Great Northern railroad and in 1888 he was drafted to teach mechanical drawing and mathematics at the Manual Training school, which is now Mechanic Arts High School in Saint Paul.

He taught for fifteen years, and during the latter portion of this period he entered the classes at the St. Paul College of Law where he was graduated with the first complete class of the college. He was admitted to the bar in 1903 and for many years taught classes at the St. Paul College of Law while maintaining a private practice in St. Paul.

During the World war Mr. Caldwell was President of the Ramsey County Bar Association and a member of the five-man central legal draft committee for the State. This committee so far as was within their power carried on the practice of many of the Minnesota lawyers who were in the army.

Mr. Caldwell was a member of the Sons of the American Revolution and a Mason. He is survived by one sister, Mrs. Mildred Ogden, and a niece, Mrs. John Rutherford, both living in Washington, D. C.

Mr. Caldwell possessed a kindly and charming personality in his nature he was essentially social. He had a great love for his fellow-men and was always interested in the problems of society. He numbered among his friends, men from all walks of life; the rich; the poor; the ignorant and the learned, and was an agreeable companion to all. He was a deep student of government and much concerned about the processes of government which had a direct bearing upon the welfare of man-kind,

As a lawyer he had specialized in real estate and probate law, and was an outstanding authority in both branches. He was most

painstaking in his work, realizing that care in the preparation of a case was essential, and that details were important. When he prepared his case for court he was well advised on every phase of the case and was able to present the matter in a masterful way. He attained success in his profession in that he had the respect of the courts and his opposing counsel. He was courteous in his dealings with his fellow-attorneys, but always instated upon justice for his clients.

He was much beloved by students of the St. Paul College of Law where he taught for many years, and always took a great interest in the graduates of that College and in their future success. He was kindly and helpful to young lawyers who were beginning the practice. He in every way by his daily life; by his professional conduct, his learning, courtesy and kindness, measured up to the best traditions of our Bar and a lawyer, and we, who are preparing this memorial and who were so intimately acquainted with him and loved him so much, feel that we can pay him no greater or more deserved tribute.

Respectfully,

John M. Bradford  
Thomas C. Daggett  
Kay Todd



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